

Our Savior's Voice

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 Leonard Street N - West Salem, WI 54669

www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

608-786-0030

October 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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October 2022

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Pastor's Reflections

*Reconnecting with the past ...
not returning to the past*

As I thought about the possibility of worship on September 11th, so many thoughts were swirling in my head.

I thought about me being back from sabbatical, and people being back in the sanctuary for worship, and the choir being back, and the kids being back for Sunday school (and confirmation), and a sung liturgy being back, and coffee fellowship being back ...

And, the theme of my sabbatical kept creeping in ... *reconnecting with the past* ...



On that day, we were *reconnecting* with the past, but we weren't *returning* to the past. We can never go back to the way things always were, to be exactly the same. Because in the time in between we have grown, we have learned, we have experienced new things, we have made new connections.



The past will always be a part of who and what we are, it has molded us and formed us, influenced us and taught us; the past will always be important, but it doesn't define who we are now.

I was reminded of that when I was back at my home congregation in suburban Chicago this summer for worship. This was a place that certainly is a part of who I am. It was a place I spent countless hours, soaking it all in, being involved in almost everything a layperson could be a part of.

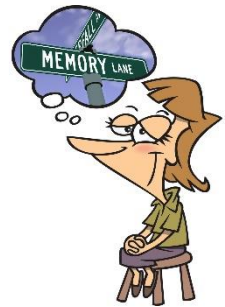
Church was a part of my very being. They joked that if you wanted to know the whys and wherefores about something, just ask me because I could tell you. That history was important 23+ years ago, but it's different now, there are new people there, new ways of doing things, new traditions. That's not to say the history is not important, because it is, but it no longer defines who that congregation is.

By chance (the Holy Spirit?), I got to preside at communion when I was there (*long story, ask me about it*), and I almost had a panic attack when I started to do it ... I couldn't remember how they always did it, what to say, what to do, I didn't want to make a mistake ... and then I remembered ... they probably do things differently now than when I was there, and I don't know the "new" way. Besides, I'm an ordained person who knows how to preside at communion – *my way* – and so that's the way I did it! I could "reconnect" with the past, but I didn't have to "return" to it.



Going into my sabbatical I didn't realize how important reconnecting with people from my past was going to be. To be able to have long, deep, meaningful conversations that haven't been possible for a long time. To learn how life has changed for each of us, and to realize our past connections are still there, to know that those bonds are still strong.

As I drove home from each reconnection, I was able to take the time to reflect ... and remember ... and smile ... and know how important and special each person was (and is) ... and to know I have taken a bit of each of them with me wherever I have gone, as I have grown and changed and moved on ... not able to return to what has been, but able to reconnect.



Reconnecting rekindles ideas, relationships, and activities.

While we can never return to the past, we can reconnect to it.

Reconnecting with you,

Pastor Jean

Worship Update

Saturday 6 PM

Sunday 8 & 10:30 AM

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

Meanwhile...

Virtual worship options
remain...



We **Zoom 10:30 AM Sunday worship** (check out our home page for the link and have your Communion elements handy!)

We also record worship and post it as a YouTube by 10:30 am on Sunday. You can access this worship at any time through our web site: www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/videos ... You can even catch up on previous weeks!

Faith Formation for Kids



sundayschool

... and we're off and running!!!

Sunday School for PreK to 5th grade began Sunday, September 11 with a "Rally Day" celebration! The sanctuary was filled with energy and excitement. How good it was to be back!! We are getting reacquainted with our friends from *Whirl* as they introduce us to our lesson each week.

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM!

If you know a child (or two) looking to grow in faith and knowing the love of Jesus, bring them on in!

All are welcome ... you can join in at any time!

Thank you to our Sunday school teachers ... we are grateful for their witness and sharing of God's love with our children.



PreK-Kindergarten – Erin Hebrink

1st Grade – Amanda and Abi Vick

2nd Grade – Lindsey Gilberts

3rd/4th Grade – Stacey Sjoquist and Mariette Stefferud

5th Grade – Eric Iliff

Substitutes: Clark & Dani Draxler, Jenny Perz, Brenda Skittone, Emily Wiedemann

Sunday school offering ...

Our Sunday school offerings this year will be for Lutheran World Relief personal care kits.

Each kit contains: 1 bath towel, 2 bars of soap, 1 toothbrush, 1 comb, and 1 nail clipper – the approximate cost of each kit is \$13.

Our offerings will “purchase” the needed items. Let’s see how many kits we can “assemble”!



Confirmation instruction for 6th-9th grade continues in October.

6th grade ... every Wednesday from 6-7 pm.

7th/8th grade ... Core class on October 5 and 19, and electives on October 12, all from 6-7 pm.

9th grade ... Class on October 5 and 12 (7-8 pm) ...and then the Halloween Party for younger kids on October 26 at 6 pm.



And don't forget ... **After School each week** starting ... *after school* ... and ending with dinner at 5:30...then off to class!

NOTE: NO After School on October 12th – WS early release



Halloween Party

Pre-K to 3rd Grade

Wednesday, October 26
6-7 PM in the church fellowship hall

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

Come in your costume – a “best costume contest”
is part of the evening.

Parents are encouraged to join us!

Sponsored by the 9th grade confirmation class.

“... place in their hands the holy scriptures ...”



As we welcome our **4K class** to discover the stories of Jesus, we will be gifting them with a *Whirl Story Bible* to help them begin their journey. We invite parents and students to join us in worship on **October 2** when these young children will receive their Bibles.

Our **3rd graders** will continue their journey through the scriptures as they receive a *Whirl NRSV Bible* that will be used these next years of Sunday School and into Confirmation. Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will gather with parents and students *either Sunday, October 9 OR Sunday, October 23 from 1:30 - 3:00 PM* for a time to discover your Bible. The Bibles will be presented to the students in worship the weekend of **October 29 & 30**.



college connection



Last Call ... College Student Addresses Needed

Staying at home...or going far away...if you or your child is heading to college this fall, please let us know. We'd like to know school, year, e-mail, and campus address so we can keep in touch and remind them that they are prayed and cared for by Our Savior's. Information can be sent to Pastor Jean or the church office. Happy studying!



As our students are either away from home or studying in challenging environments, we keep them in our thoughts and prayers. This month please pray for: **Zane Langrehr** (Northwest College, WY), **Liam Sjoquist** (UW-L), **Trenton Foreman** (UW-SP), and **Mahli Fleckenstein** (Viterbo).



Youth Ministry Position Available

We will be seeking a new individual to take on the youth ministry duties at Our Savior's. This is a position of 10-20 hours/week, with a special emphasis on the Wednesday After School ministry. The position requires an ability to work as a team, a love of children, and the flexibility to "go with the flow" and be creative. If you have an interest, or know someone who might, see Pastor Jon or Jen Linse.

We've Got Quilts and Kits... You've Got Wheels???

Our quilts and school kits are almost ready to hit the road – but we need some help. If you have a pickup or van that can help us transport our boxes to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in La Crosse on Saturday morning, October 8, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean. This is a great way to be a part of an important ministry!





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. We can make that happen!



Hungry Jar Offering for October -

Lutheran Disaster Response works in partnership with congregations, synods, Lutheran social ministry organizations and other partners in the United States and around the world. With their deep knowledge of local needs and how to address them, these partners help LDR work in ways that are relevant and effective for each community. Through these partnerships, LDR accompany survivors from the time a disaster strikes until communities are rebuilt. Recent disasters LDR is working with currently include wildfires out West, flooding in Kentucky and nearby states, and Hurricane Fiona and others.



Handbell Choir

The Handbell Choir is starting up again this fall and we are looking for new folks to join us.

Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the music room off of the fellowship hall. You are invited to join us. For more information speak with Laurie Noelke or one of the pastors.



Norwegian Dinner

November 5
4:30-6:30 PM

We're working on it – **the Norwegian Dinner for this fall is in the works!** The plan is to offer a “take-out” dinner, with the opportunity to enjoy the meal in the Fellowship Hall – or take it with you!

To make this work ... we need your help! Sign-ups for the various dinner tasks are now out in the Gathering Area. Sign-up now to get your favorite job.

And why would you sign up to help? To make a difference! Remember, all the profits go to support ministries and programs that change people's lives – a great way to live out your calling as a disciple of Jesus.

For more information see Lynette Ender or one of the pastors.



New Members ... Longtime Members ... and More?

Wanting to make the move and join Our Savior's? Or ... just wanting to know more about the faith we share? Or ... just looking for a bit of stimulating conversation about faith and life?

Join us for a discussion about what makes our faith tick, and how it "ticks" even in challenging times like these. Pastor Jon will lead the conversation, but you will make it work! Come and join us as we explore our faith from a variety of angles.

**Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm
October 25 – November 15**

While this gathering will serve as a "new members class," anyone is welcome to join us. See Pastor Jon for more information.

Stewardship Ministry

Watch your mail for news about our fall stewardship emphasis. You will have the opportunity to be a part of the work we do making a difference and changing lives for the sake of Jesus!



To help you prepare ... think about two things ...

- A blessing or blessings that you have received and experienced in the past year.
- A hope that you have for the year ahead.
- A prayer concern you have for right now.

Our stewardship ministry is grounded in what God has done, is doing, and will do for us through the grace and the power of the Holy Spirit. Our stewardship is our response to God's work!

So ... think about blessings, hopes, and prayers ... and watch for the mailing later in October!



Pastoral Acts:

Funeral –

- Dale Anderson Sr - August 26
- Barbara Zitzner – September 24

Mission Endowment Fund

Each year the Mission Endowment Fund distributes around \$15,000 to agencies and programs in our community and around the world that meet human needs. We are looking



for your suggestions for appropriate disbursements for the endowment in early 2023. Guidelines on what can be funded are available from the church office, but most agencies and programs that meet human needs qualify.

This year the fund disbursement will be recommended by the committee, but approved by the annual meeting. Your suggestions are the first step in that process. Suggestions will be received through October, and can be submitted to the office.

For more information contact Melody Schmitz, or see one of the pastors.



Prayer Shawl

After 2 ½ years hiatus, do you need to get out of the house to gather with friends? Do you enjoy knitting and/or crocheting or want to learn? If so, join us at Prayer Shawl the first & third Tuesday of each month from 1-3 pm in the Koinonia room. All are welcome!

Tech Project Delays

We have now engaged with a new company for the tech project, and we are confident they will deliver! The hope is to have the project completed in early 2023. Supply chain issues continue to be a concern, but it is coming. In the meantime, we thank Dean Olson for his continued work on the project, and for keeping our tech work above water.



We also thank those who have contributed towards this project and continue to invite your support to cover the cost of the project. This isn't just a few new "bells and whistles" – it will enable us to do new ministries, and do them well!

For more information on the project see Pastor Jon or Dean Olson.



Join us for new opportunities

The schedules have been prepared for Altar Guild, Welcoming Team, and Communion Assisting. If you have been a part of these ministries in the past, you should have received a letter with the new schedules.

It's not too late to be included ... if you are new to the congregation and/or you have decided now is the time to try something new, Pastor Jean would love to hear from you so she can include you in the schedule. We are anxious to be able to work together!





Thank you ...

... to the September newsletter mailing crew: Larry & Connie Blunck, Bev Bockenbauer, Carolyn Karl, Vernetta Moe, Marion Twite Stensven

Received from others ...

Dear Our Savior's, on behalf of our organization, we would like to sincerely thank you for the generous monetary donation and providing a booth at National Night Out. Your support is greatly appreciated. National Night Out was truly a success and would not have been possible without the support of our community and neighbors like you.

Kyle Holzhausen - Chief of Police, West Salem Police Department

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Thank you so much for helping me go to Sugar Creek this year! This was my favorite year yet, and I learned a lot. We did so many fun things, like climb the bluff at midnight, and go canoeing. I also met the best group of girls! In fact, I still talk to them. Our counselor did an amazing job with bible study. It was super engaging, and we had many meaningful, deep conversations. I just wanted to say thank you for allowing me to make all of these fun memories!

Lydia Gothen

Thank you Our Savior's Lutheran Church for helping me go to Sugar Creek Bible Camp. I did the Seekers program and it was a blast. My favorite things I did were when we went canoeing at Sidie Hollow, playing sugar ball, 9 square, and sleeping in tents. My favorite song was Chuga Chuga. I hope I get to go again next year. Thank you.

Jesse Gothen

Hi! I loved going to camp. I loved to sing the songs. I can't wait for next year. *[I love church. It is so fun. I can't wait for it to start.]*

Alise Jothen

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Thank you so much for your commitment & passion to feed the youth of West Salem. We are so grateful for the part you play in making sure our members have access to food.

Maggie & Brenengen BGC Staff & Members

In Loving Memory

Memorial Gifts Received ...

In Memory of Dale Anderson Sr.

From Family & Friends

In Memory of Jim Johnson - for Choir

From Carl & Jennifer Wallace





Congregation Council Review

The Congregation Council met on Monday, September 12, with President Jen Linse presiding. At this meeting the council:

- Welcomed Pastor Jean back from her sabbatical, and heard about some of the “reconnecting” that made it a special time.
- Heard from the Property Committee concerns regarding the flat roof and other future project needs for the building. Asked the committee to continue to explore options and costs.
- Shared in devotions and prayer.
- Shared several new reflections on The Post Quarantine Church, and how we see changes in our world happening around us. Discussed the upcoming “Vital Congregations” training.
- Noted that the youth position is still unfilled, and we continue to seek the right person.
- Discussed a revision of the guiding principles and decided to continue to ponder the best wording and how to use them effectively.
- Received an update on how ministries are “rebooting” this fall, and what the needs of our ministries are.
- Approved the minutes of the August 8 council meeting, and received the August financial reports.
- Heard that the tech project is proceeding with a new provider, and that we are awaiting a new proposal.
- Heard that a “thank-you” for Kathy Brisson will need to be rescheduled, but will happen.
- Received Trudy Drugg as a transfer from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Wells, MN.
- Affirmed the hiring of a dishwasher for the Wednesday After School ministry.

The next meeting of the council will be Monday, October 10 at 7 PM. If you have questions or 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.

Like our worship services at Lakeview, Salem Terrace/Mill Street Manor, and Mulder's – every month close to 40 worshipers hearing the good news, singing praises, and receiving new life through Holy Communion. Thanks to you!

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!*

Hospital Visitation

With the changes in hospital visitation protocols it is more difficult for the pastors to “just drop by” and visit. Still, we want to be there for you! If you are anticipating a hospital stay, or find yourself there unexpectedly, and want a pastoral call, please contact the church office. We will be happy to visit!



Scrip Cards Available

It's getting to be that time of year ... Christmas gift giving is right around the corner ... for the person who has everything, why not give them a gift card!



Culver's, Kwik Trip, Kwik Trip car wash, Woodman's, and Ship Shape car wash.



And, remember the proceeds go to help World Hunger and Our Savior's Sugar Creek Bible Camp Camperships!

amazon smile 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

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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

Care and Share Food Pantry



The Care and Share Food Pantry is open Saturdays, 10 AM to Noon, and now also the first and third Thursday of the month from 4:30-6:30 PM. Food can be dropped off during office hours. Thank you!



Newsletter Deadline – October 14

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
359 Leonard St N
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U.S. Postage
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Change Service Requested