

Our Savior's Voice

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 Leonard Street N - West Salem, WI 54669

www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

608-786-0030

June/July 2023



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

June/July 2023

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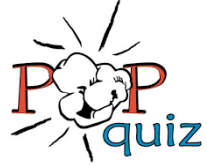


Pastor's Reflections

What's a roof got to do with it? ...

Pop quiz! How many guiding principles does Our Savior's have? Can you name them all? Do you know where to find them? Do you know why we created them?

So many questions ... so many answers??



For the last six months the *Pastor's Reflections* have focused on introducing and explaining one of our guiding principles, and adding to them each month, so by now you have heard about all of them. Answer 1) There are 6 guiding principles.

After much thoughtful and prayerful consideration, conversation, and observation, the guiding principles were crafted to reflect our beliefs, who we are as a people of God, and what we stand for ... Answer 2) ...

- ♥ *Jesus is Lord and Savior.*
- ♥ *All are welcome, and we are intentional about that welcome.*
- ♥ *God gifts and calls every one of every age to be a difference maker in the world.*
- ♥ *We treasure the gift of creation and embrace the call to protect God's world.*
- ♥ *We value the gathering of God's people in worship and all our ministries.*
- ♥ *We seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in a world that has changed dramatically.*

As I mentioned earlier, you can find the guiding principles in the last six newsletters (Answer 3). As time goes on, they will pop up in various places throughout the church so you can begin to recognize them and commit them to your heart

and memory. They may be a bit “wordy”, so pick out key words and phrases that will help you remember.

Which brings us to why we created them. (Answer 4) As we make decisions about the life of the congregation, where we are headed, what needs to be done, how we do things, we keep the guiding principles in front of us sort of like a roadmap that helps us determine which route to take. We ask questions to make sure whatever we are doing is reflecting where we believe we are being called to go.

Take the roof, for instance. What’s the roof got to do with Jesus is Lord, being welcoming, allowing everyone to make a difference, valuing God’s people in our ministries, living in a changing world?

Well ... everything we do, who we are, who we are called to be is centered on our belief that Jesus is Lord and Savior – that’s just a given!

We are called to care for all that God has entrusted to us – that’s called stewardship. One of the things we have been entrusted to care for is our physical building.



In order to be a welcoming place, our building needs to not only look nice, but more importantly, it needs to be a safe place to welcome all, so all may know God’s love. Dodging buckets of water when the roof leaks or wondering if a ceiling tile will fall down on your head along with a stream of water, is not exactly welcoming.

As a community, we walk together, all of us – all ages, all abilities – using the gifts we have been given to make a difference. We use our intellect to create a plan. We use our hands to do certain tasks. We use our creativity and resources to find ways to help raise funds.

The time has come for us to invest our time, talents, and treasures into our building. We need to have a safe place to be able to carry out the worship and ministries we have been called to do ... baptizing, marrying, burying, sharing God's love in Word and Sacrament, singing God's praises, educating children and adults, feeding children lunches, providing groceries to feed those who are hungry, feeding our neighbors, making quilts to keep people warm and give them a sense of security, knitting prayer shawls to wrap folks in prayer and love, gathering together to share each other's joys & celebrations, pains & sorrows.

Those who care for our building have been looking around, making a list and checking it twice, to figure out what our priorities might be for the next few years



... replacing the flat roof to keep us dry, replacing the ceiling tiles, replacing the lights to illumine the path to the front door, tuckpointing the building to keep the bricks from crumbling and to keep the cold and critters out, paving the parking lot to provide a smooth surface to park our cars, walk, and maybe even play some basketball! Nothing glamorous, nothing flashy, but necessary to continue to be welcoming, faithful, and good stewards of all God has entrusted to us.

The work we do here in this place does not stop here, our work reaches beyond our walls, out into the neighborhood, the community, and the world.

That's what a roof has to do with it!

Following our Guiding Principles along with you,

Pastor Jean





Worship Update

**Saturday 6 PM
Sunday 8 & 10 AM**

*Note the summer
worship hour change!!*

Meanwhile...

Virtual worship options
remain...

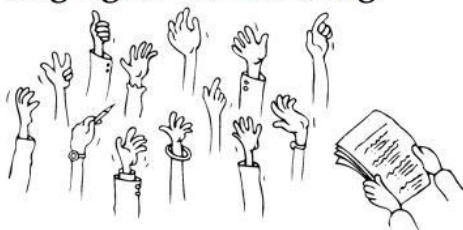


We **Zoom 10 AM Sunday worship** (check out our home page for the link and have your Communion elements handy!)

We also record worship and post it as a YouTube by 10 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!

And soon ... livestreaming of the 10:00 worship. We hope to have the new tech work done sometime during the summer, with enhanced capabilities in the building, and a much-improved online experience as well.

Special Congregational Meeting



Special Congregational Meeting

June 4, 2023

After 10 AM worship – approximately 11 AM

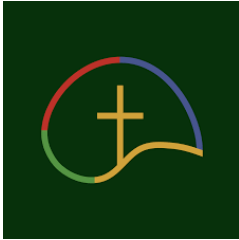
The Congregation Council has called a special congregational meeting to consider several proposals to address building needs. The meeting will consider:

- Replacement of the flat roof.
- Replacement of the lights leading to the Leonard Street entrance.
- Tuckpointing of the brick and caulking of windows.
- Authorization to use the Parsonage Fund as needed to complete the repairs approved.

The Council will also share a tentative 3-5-year plan to address other building needs including the parking lot and the pitched roof of the sanctuary.

These are the only items on the agenda; no other business will be in order at this meeting.

Your presence is important as we consider how best to care for the gift and resource of our building. Thank you for your partnership in our work together on behalf of the gospel of Jesus Christ!



2023 La Crosse Area Synod Assembly

The 2023 La Crosse Area Synod Assembly meets June 9-11. The opening worship and session will be at Holmen Lutheran

Church; the business sessions and workshops on Saturday will be at the La Crosse Center; Sunday's worship will be at Riverside Park in La Crosse (*you are invited to join us!*)

Please keep the assembly in your prayers. Voting members from Our Savior's include Eric Ender, Jamie Fortier, Carolyn Karl, Jen Linse, Pastor Jean, and Pastor Jon.

Synod Assembly Worship ...

You are invited to worship together with the La Crosse Area Synod ...



SUNDAY, JUNE 11

10:00 AM

RIVERSIDE PARK, BANDSTAND
100 STATE ST. LA CROSSE, WI 54601

PICNIC FOLLOWING

But before we get there ...

WE ARE COLLECTING
SOCKS & UNDERWEAR

FOR THE ASSEMBLY OFFERING

TO DISTRIBUT TO LOCAL
FOOD PANTRIES & CLOTHING CLOSETS



This year's tangible offering to be collected in advance at congregations will be NEW socks, underwear, and bras. Our local clothing closets appreciated this offering last year and the need is still great this year.

Place your donations in the box in the Gathering Area and our delegates will take the collection down to the Assembly.

New Members



Everyone (and we mean, *everyone!*) is welcome at Our Savior's, and welcome to our ministries and activities, even if you are not a member.

But ... if you'd like to join the congregation ... we'd love to have you! If you come from another Lutheran congregation, a transfer works best. Or, if you come from another Christian tradition, we periodically offer a new member class to help you learn more about how Lutherans understand the faith we share. ***Pastor Jon is looking to get a class started, so this is a great time.*** For more information on membership and how it can happen for you, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean!

Welcome, Jane!



Recently, the Congregation Council received Jane Brenengen Reinl as a new member. Here's a bit about Jane...

I grew up on a livestock and crop farm south of Ettrick (I bailed a lot of hay in my day!). I attended French Creek Lutheran Church, and graduated from G.E.T. and UW-L. My career was in sales, advertising, and customer management – I love working with people!

I've been married twice, with no children. Most of my life I've been in Onalaska. I'm now retired, but have no desire to sit still. I'm currently working my "retiree job" as hostess at Red Lobster, and love it! I also love to bowl, sing karaoke, shopping, and attending theater and musicals. I enjoy worshipping at Our Savior's, and look forward to meeting you all.



Hungry Jar Offering for June – LWR School Kits

Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Lutheran World Relief School Kits contain essential supplies to help children — and in some cases, adults — continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities. Our June Hungry Jar offerings will buy supplies to help complete the school kits and send them to Lutheran World Relief.

Hungry Jar Offering for July – Lutheran Campus Ministry



We know it's summer, but fall is right around the corner, and students will soon be returning to college campuses ... WE can do ministry with young adults through LuMin in LaCrosse. LuMin is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) inviting all students from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Western Technical College, and Viterbo University on a journey of faith together! They are supported by the congregations of the La Crosse Area Synod and the ELCA, as well as gifts from individuals who have a heart for ministry with college students.



Thank you for your generous donations to the Hungry Jar ...

♥ April – Feed Our Children Summer Lunch - \$741.86

Faith Formation ...



Confirmation Ministry – Parents!

Parents of incoming 7th, 8th, and 9th graders we need your help!! Please prayerfully consider being a Group Guide for your child's confirmation class. Through the years, other parents have found this to be a meaningful experience for them, as well as for our students, and special relationships are formed during this time together. So much more can happen during the confirmation experience for our students, if there are group guides shepherding them. No experience necessary. Just come and be authentically you. Pastor Jon will reach out in the coming months ... why not say YES!!

Faith Formation ...

Thank You to our Sunday School teachers!



THANK YOU TO OUR
SUNDAY SCHOOL
TEACHERS

PreK/Kindergarten - Erin Hebrink
1st Grade – Amanda Vick
2nd Grade – Lindsey Gilberts
3rd/4th Grade – Stacey Sjoquist & Mariette Stefferud
5th Grade – Eric Iliff
Substitute – Brenda Skittone
Helpers – Jen Evenson, Jessalyn Hickey
Music – Linda Berg, Naoko Giblin, Laurie Noelke

We couldn't have done it without you!!



Planning ahead ...

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

We need 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. Our goal is to have **two teachers** for each grade to make scheduling easier.



- ♥ **Team Music Leaders** – the kids will have a time for music every week with the goal of sharing their music with the congregation during worship.

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



College Scholarship Recipients

Our Savior's is blessed to be able to award several scholarships to graduating high school students each year, with gifts from the following sources:

- Clifford and Doris Michelson Scholarship Fund
- Adolph Marking Scholarship Fund
- Norma Piper



At our high school graduate recognition on Sunday, May 21, Our Savior's announced scholarship recipients for 2023:

- Tyler Mathison - Michelson scholarship
- Brandon Riley - Marking Scholarship
- Lauren Bell - Michelson Scholarship
- Elly Goodenough - Piper Scholarship
- Emma Fortier - Michelson Scholarship
- Benjamin Larson - Michelson Scholarship

We are pleased to support these students as they continue their education, and ask God's blessing upon them, and upon all our graduates!



SUGAR CREEK
BIBLE CAMP

Sugar Creek Bible Campers

Please keep the following youth who will be attending Camp in *June* in your prayers:

June 11-16

William Byom
Jesse Jochen
Laney Kneifl
Layla Kneifl

June 18-23

Anna Gross
Alise Jochen
Lily Muellenberg
Ellie Tlustosch

June 25-27

Leah Gross

June 25-30

Mabel Sjoquist
Sophia Sprehn

Please keep the following youth who will be attending Camp in *July* in your prayers:



July 2-4

Declan Gilberts
Beau Kneifl

July 16-21

Claire Gross

July 23-28

Candace Drury
Chloe Drury
Mya Peterson

July 30-August 4

Kiry Eckland
Marissa Eckland
Olivia Sprehn
Adelyn Tlustosch



Adult Bible Study

*Wednesdays 9:30-11 AM
In the Library – or join us by
Zoom*

We are still studying ... so much to learn! Come and join us as we study the coming Sunday's gospel reading, ponder God's message to us, and have some time for good conversation and fellowship.

See Pastor Jon for more information, or to get the Zoom link.



**Coffee & Conversation
at Linda's Bakery
9:30 AM on Tuesday, June 13
9:30 AM on Tuesday, July 11**



Feed Our Children Summer Lunch Program

Preparations are underway for the 2023 Summer Lunch Program. Currently we are looking for donations of Zip Lock baggies (snack and sandwich size), fruit or applesauce cups, ranch dressing, granola bars, and snack items such as goldfish or teddy grahams. Financial contributions are also always welcome – make checks out to Our Savior’s, but **note** the gift is **for Feed Our Children**.

If you would like to help prepare the lunches (9:30 am – 12:30 pm), use the following link to sign up - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C4EA5A72CA4FF2-summer2>

Angie is also looking for a kitchen leader (that she is willing to co-lead with) for June 20 & 22 and August 8 & 10. Contact Angie at (hemker.angie@wsalem.k12.wi.us) if you would like to be a part of the team.

For more information and updates on how you can help support this important ministry, check out the Feed Our Children Summer Lunch Program page on Facebook.

**Tune your “pipes” ...
grab your lawn chair ...
and join us ...**

**BEER & HYMNS
CAMPFIRE STYLE!**

SUNDAY, JULY 9

6:00 PM

ERIC & JILL ILIFF’S HOME

(430 Olson Drive)



The Iliff's have once again graciously offered their backyard for a campfire and singalong. Bring your own beverage of choice, a snack to pass, a lawn chair, and your voice. And, don't forget to invite your friends!



June Dairy Days

Join us at June Dairy Days on **June 2, 3, and 4!** Stop by the

food tent and say “Hi!”



NOTE: the SOS Band will NOT be playing at the Gazebo on Sunday morning this year!



Tech Project Update

Seriously, we are almost there! The latest delay has been caused by the challenge of finding an electrician to do some prep work (they are very busy these days!). But, good news – we have an electrician in mind, he's checked the job, and we are (we hope) moving forward! Watch for some changes in the sanctuary ... and a vast improvement in our online worship experience.

A special thanks to Dean Olson for working with this so tirelessly over the past 2+ years!



Quilting Ministry Needs



The Quilting group is looking for fabric! If you have fabric that needs a purpose in life, we can give it one ... by turning it into quilts that will be used to shelter people around the world. This is a GREAT way to be a part of an exciting ministry, that really makes a difference.

For more information, contact the office. And ... *thank you!*

It's School Kit Time!

Start watching for school supplies for the school kits we assemble and send, literally around the world, through Lutheran World Relief!

Each School kit contains the following:

- 1 – 30 cm ruler/12 inch
- 1 – pencil sharpener
- 1 – **BLUNT** scissors
- 5 – **UN**sharpened 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)



Watch for a collection box in the gathering area. Start your shopping and make a difference in the lives of children!

PEACHES ...

In case you were wondering ... we will **NOT** be selling peaches this summer.





Congregation Council

The Congregation Council met on Monday, May 8, with President Jeff Haldeman presiding. Also present were 21 additional congregation leaders. At this meeting the council:

- Shared in conversation about church buildings and the ministries they support, and devotions based on Ephesians 4:7, 12-13.
- Engaged in a discussion with congregation leaders over proposals from the Property Community and DBS Group for needed maintenance and repairs on the building over the next few years.
- Received significant advice and counsel from the leaders present, with a consensus to act on the roof and the outside lighting immediately, and to develop a 3-5-year plan to address additional needs.
- Thanked the leaders who joined the meeting for their insights and guidance.
- Deferred action on a number of agenda items to the June meeting.
- Decided to hold a special congregational meeting on Sunday, June 18, following the 10 AM worship service. *(Note: This meeting has since been rescheduled for June 4.)*
- Decided to move the June meeting to June 19, and to keep the July meeting on the schedule pending the outcome of the special congregational meeting.

The next meeting of the council will be held Monday, June 19 at 7 PM. If you have questions, or if you have ideas for enhancing the ministry of Our Savior's, contact Jeff Haldeman or one of the pastors.



Thank you ...

to the May newsletter mailing crew:
Larry & Connie Blunck, Bev Bockenbauer,
Carolyn Karl, Judy Morzinski, Carol
Thompson, and Marion Twite-Stensven.



Pastoral Acts:

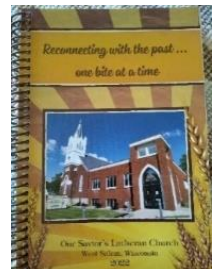
Baptism – Jalen Kaiser – May 7
Baptism – Louise Vike – May 21
Burial – Eleanor Lee – May 20

Going ... going ... almost gone ...

***“Reconnecting with the past ...
one bite at a time” Cookbook***

\$15

(Proceeds go toward the roof fund.)



If you have been thinking about getting a cookbook, but haven't done so yet, note that there are not many left ... so get yours while you can.

In Loving Memory



Memorial Gifts Received ...

*In Memory of Valgean Anderson for
Quilting from ...*

Colleen Mulder

In Memory of Jeff Stellick from ...

**Eric & Lynette Ender
Jim Michelson**

**Mike U Linda Gofus
Janet & Tom Faile**

In Memory of Jeff Stellick for Choir from ...

Dennis & Ann Sprain

In Memory of Mary Kokott from ...

Roger Yeske & Rita Tabbert

Kathleen Tabbert



**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.

Like our quilting ministry, busy making quilts that will go around the world. Your gifts of material ... and your financial gifts that provide space ... all part of a ministry to people whom we will never meet, but who are cherished children of God!

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!*

By the numbers...



Ministry is not a numbers game, but numbers can help us get a feel for what is happening as we carry out our part of God's work in the world! Numbers help us

measure our faithful response to God's call, both in our financial support and our worship life. So...here is a snapshot of our ministry...by the numbers!

2023 Ministry at Work			
	Actual-April	Actual-YTD	Budget-YTD
Income	\$40,155.40	\$113,561.42	\$120,475.00
Prepaid		\$13,362.00	\$13,362.00
Expense	\$28,721.72	\$124,123.31	\$127,037.04
Net	11,433.68	2,800.11	
2023 Worship Life – Weekly average			
	In-building Actual	Online Estimate	TOTAL
April	255	101	356
Year to Date	173	87	260

Worship Leaders - June



June 3-4

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Lauren Burt
Julie Quackenbush
Haun Family

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Gunnar Eckland
Carla Burkhardt
L&C Blunck

10 a.m.

Home Communion
Altar Guild for June

Marjorie Anderson
Wendy Amundson

Charlie Fullwood
D Baumgartner
Giblin Family

June 10-11

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Mya Peterson
Chad Vick
Angie & Dave Hemker

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Charlie Ihle
Jim Quamme
Ihle Family

10 a.m.

Home Communion

Dottie Baumgartner

Grace Johnsrude
Denise Jones
Leren Family

June 17-18

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Noah Johnsrude
Judy Gilbert
Todd & Inger Michael

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Isaiah Laack

Amy Peterson

10 a.m.

Home Communion

Bev Bockenbauer

Lexi Marinelli
Jessica Kennedy
M&J Larson

June 24-25

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Briauna Mathison
Jon Hetland
Jim & Marjorie Anderson

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Drew McConkey
Melody Schmitz
Tlustosch Family

10 a.m.

Mara McNaughton
Gillian Twite
Wendy Amundson



Worship Leaders - July

July 1-2

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant
Welcoming Team

Tula Mitchell
Phil & Judy Gilbert

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant
Welcoming Team
Altar Guild for July

J Quackenbush
J&R Kerkman
Pam Gresens

10 a.m.

B Rasmussen
B&J Linse

July 8-9

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Nate Stefferud
Marjorie Anderson
Chad & Carla Long

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team
Home Communion

Arianna Stugen
Naoko Giblin
Draxler Family
Judy Gilbert

10 a.m.

Graham Sjoquist
Corey Sjoquist
Michelle Witte

July 15-16

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

6 p.m.
Drew McConkey
Julie Quackenbush
Jon & Maryrose Hetland

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

8 a.m.
Landon Weiland
Sue Ahles
Brenda Skittone

10 a.m.
Alicia Zarecki
Carolyn Karl
Haldeman Family

Home Communion

Pam Gresens

July 22-23

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

6 p.m.
Isaac Arentz
Judy Morzinski
Kim Arentz

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

8 a.m.
Henry Bakkum
Pam Gresens
Bakkum Family

10 a.m.
Will Byom
Bill Jensen
Byom Family

Home Communion

Carolyn Karl

July 29-30

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

6 p.m.
Deanna Christianson
Chad Vick
Christianson Family

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

8 a.m.
Arianna Clements
Brenda Skittone
D&K Anderson

10 a.m.
Anna Gross
Tracey Beckley
Gross Family

Home Communion

Marjorie Anderson

Vacation

Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will be on vacation from June 22 to July 7. If you have pastoral care needs during their absence, please contact Kris in the office.



Worship June 24/25 will feature the SOS Band, with Pastor John Dumke presiding. On July 1/2, Dori Jensen will lead worship. We thank them for their leadership!

Check out our new...



QR Code!

To be found in the Sunday bulletin ...and here in the newsletter... the QR code takes you to our online giving page. You can set up electronic gifts to support the work we share in the gospel of Jesus Christ! Direct payment or credit cards, one time or recurring, the general fund ... or summer lunch ... or world hunger ... or youth fund. Your gifts and regular support make a difference, and the QR Code makes it easy to find!

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.

Scrip Cards Available

Help support Our Savior’s Sugar Creek Bible Camp Camperships and World Hunger!

KWIK TRIP



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

WOODMAN'S



**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

Pastor Jonathan Schmidt, Senior Pastor 612-0217
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Pastor Jean Schmidt, Associate Pastor 612-0217
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Email: rachel.holthaus10.3@gmail.com
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



**Newsletter Deadline –
July 15**

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
West Salem, WI
Permit #21

Change Service Requested