

# Our Savior's Voice

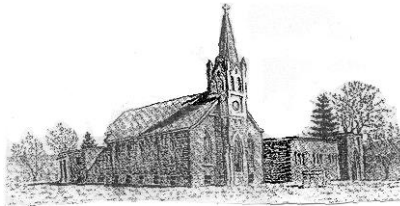
Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 Leonard Street N - West Salem, WI 54669

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

608-786-0030

## December 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**

## **December 2023**

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## Pastor's Reflections ...

### Bound together by a child!

I'm writing this just days after Thanksgiving, and our ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve worship. With folks joining us from St Teresa and West Salem Presbyterian churches, the house was full, the combined choir was awesome, and the pie social was a great "after-worship treat!" What a great evening!

By the way, the video is posted on our web site video page at [www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/ videos](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/videos). Check it out.

On the drive home it felt, oddly, like Christmas Eve. Wonderful worship, dark and cold as this time of the year is, and kind of quiet streets. But most of all, a feeling of fulfillment.

Together-ness will do that to you!

We gathered together, Lutherans, Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, and maybe a few others mixed in, and took time together, to give thanks – thanks for all of God's blessings, beginning with turkey and all the trimmings. But one of the things I lifted up in the sermon was a different thanks – thanks for the people gathered together that evening. I shared a bit about the history of Lutherans seeing Calvinists (the tradition of the Presbyterian Church) and the Pope as the enemy, as something to be "poisoned." I also said that I give thanks that today I can be embarrassed and even a bit ashamed at what we as Lutherans once thought to be true and acceptable. But now, today...I reminded the gathering that we will soon all come to the manger of the same child, and then, later on, to the foot of the same cross. We have our differences, but we are united by the one Jesus.



And so, we could, and we did, worship together. And it was wonderful!

But we aren't done. Check out the invitation to the "Carol Sing" on December 20 at St Teresa, and we invited both congregations to join us at "Eggnog and Carols" at Hunter's on December 10. More time to gather with those who are a part of the same Body of Christ, those who gather at the same manger and the same cross.

But really, bound together by a child...a savior...Jesus!

Perhaps that is one of the gifts of this season that we overlook, but which also this year just might be one of the most important gifts we have. The gathering together of people with differences, around and because of the child-to-become-savior. Jesus.



But not just a bunch of church folk, like Lutherans, Catholics and Presbyterians. We live in an increasingly polarized world. Sociologists use the term "tribalism." More and more we gravitate to our own "tribe," people who in some fashion are like us. Especially in our politics, we hang out with like kind, only hearing what we already think to be true. And that tribalism leads us to not only dislike, but to even demonize the others – you know, "them" (whoever "them" might be!).

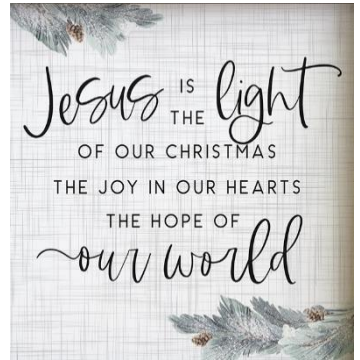
While to some extent that has always been true (that's why Lutherans could so easily condemn "others" years ago), tribalism has become even more pronounced over the past decade. Which is why we really need Christmas. Again. We need something around-with to gather (the child) and something to gather us together (the child). And then...a little while later we need that same child to gather us together around the cross. The cross that overcomes all things – and the love of God in the child turned Savior that cannot be stopped.

As we move forward toward a new year, we also look ahead to another election cycle. I know politics can become deep, divisive, emotional, and all-consuming. But remember – it’s the child! The child...and then the cross.

I have no illusions – or maybe delusions – that a few warm memories of Christmas will lighten the divisions we see in our world, or even in our little corner of it. Yet, the power of the child – and the cross – cannot be discounted. Maybe if we take a peek at the child, and then at the crowd that gathers around the manger, a crowd that includes those of other “tribes,” we will sense something different. And then, if we see that child on the cross reaching out to all sorts of “tribes,” even those who are not gathering there, perhaps we will have a renewed appreciation for all the loved and beloved children of God. Even those of other “tribes,” who are not as “right” as we are.

And perhaps, in that moment, the gift of light and life in the child will shine forth and renew us as peacemakers, bridge builders, and faithful disciples of the Jesus who loves all “tribes.”

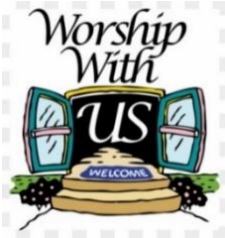
Now, there would be something worth our effort, adoration, and...thanksgiving!



*Pastor Jon*



# Worship Opportunities



**Saturday 6 PM**  
**Sunday 8 & 10:30 AM**

Meanwhile...

## Virtual worship options remain..

**December 3 is the last Sunday for Zoom.** The quality of Zoom is poor, and with the Sunday School program on December 10 and the Choir Cantata on December 17, the Zoom won't work well. We hope by Christmas Eve to begin livestreaming, which will have the same quality as our recorded YouTube worship. The livestream will be used for the recorded worship each week.

**Until livestreaming begins we will continue to record worship and post it as a YouTube video.** Note that December 10 the video will be posted later to allow the Sunday School program to be available. You can access these videos at any time through our web site: [www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/videos](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/videos), or through our YouTube channel. You can even catch up on previous weeks!





## Christmas Greetings!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you, from the staff at Our Savior's! We treasure the community that gathers here, and we are grateful to all of you for your support and your partnership in the gospel of Jesus. May God's blessings in the Christ Child be yours during this Holy Season, and throughout the coming New Year!

*Pastor Jon, Pastor Jean, Kris, Rachel,  
Linda, Eric, Laurie, Josh, Jill and Karen*

### Office Schedule

The office will be closed  
December 26 and January 1



# Advent and Christmas



## **Hanging of the Greens**

December 6 + 7 PM

It's time to get things ready – and so we sing some songs, hear God's word, and "hang the greens!" Join us as we get the season started, with help from some of our confirmation students.



## **Christmas Carol Sing**

**at St. Teresa**

**December 20 – 7 PM**

We join with St Teresa's and the Presbyterian Church of West Salem to enjoy the carols that are so much a part of the season. Though we are of different traditions, we come to worship the same child in the manger!





## **Christmas Eve**

*We are there, at the manger,  
worshiping the child!*

1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 10 PM

Music ... Holy Communion ...  
Candlelight ...  
and the Christmas Gospel



**YouTube**

## **YouTube (and maybe Livestream?) Worship**

*Recording of the 3:30 PM  
Christmas Eve worship  
posted on web site by 7 PM*

*Access video on home page of web site*

*Watch home page for Livestreaming – we hope to be  
“live” by Christmas Eve*



## **Christmas Day**

*Monday, December 25 + 10 AM*

Worship with Holy Communion

*In the light of day rejoice as we continue to celebrate  
the wonder of the newborn Christ!*



## Decorate the Sanctuary Sunday, December 3 Following 10:30 AM worship



Please join us as we put up the trees and decorate the rest of the church for Advent and Christmas. Hot chocolate, apple cider and cookies will be provided. Your whole family is invited to have fun and make memories.



## Lakeview Caring Tree

If you picked up a tag from the Lakeview Caring Tree, please return the ***wrapped gift, along with the tag on the outside of the package***, to the church office by December 8.

Thank you for helping to make Christmas just a little brighter for our neighbors!

## Check it out and Give it a try! December 17



If you play piano and want to try your Christmas piano music on the organ, come up to the balcony Sunday, December 17



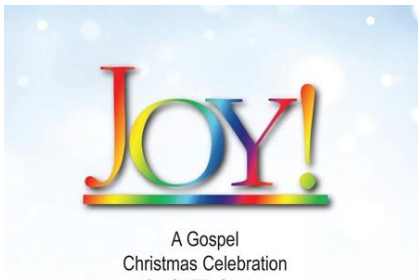
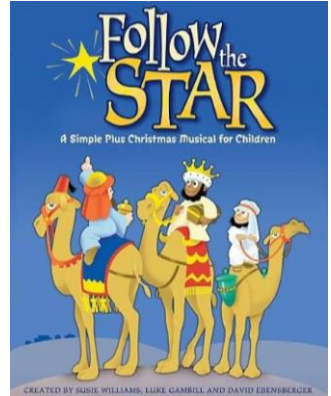
after the 10:30 service and let's hear what it sounds like! Linda will be there to help you. All ages welcome!



*Sounds  
of the  
Season*

# Join us ...

**Sunday School  
Christmas Program  
December 10<sup>th</sup>  
During the  
10:30 AM worship**



## **Christmas Cantata "Joy"**

**December 17<sup>th</sup>  
8 & 10:30 AM**

Join us as the Senior Choir presents the musical cantata "Joy!" This work tells the story of Christ's birth through a variety of styles based on both familiar Christmas carols and original pieces. We invite you to enjoy this music as much as we have!

# Attention All Women!

## Norwegian Dinner Disbursement Meeting December 10 – 9:15 AM

It's time to make the lutefisk, meatballs, rutabagas, potatoes and treats make a difference! All women are invited to a conversation in the library on disbursing the proceeds from the Norwegian Dinner. Bring your ideas for ministries, programs, and agencies that meet human needs in our area and beyond.



## Eggnog and Carols

December 10  
6 PM at Hunter's  
140 Leonard St S



Just like "Beer and Hymns," only December style. Join us for a fun time of carols and treats. We'll provide the music – you provide whatever you want to eat and drink. And it doesn't have to be eggnog!

## Poinsettias



If you are planning to have a poinsettia in church for Christmas, please have your form and \$25 returned to the church office by December 6. We will acknowledge your poinsettia in the Christmas bulletins.

Plants will be provided by Under the Rust. Or, if you provide your own plant, please have it to church by December 21<sup>st</sup>.



perfect  
stocking filler  
ideas

## Scrip Cards Available

Scrip cards make great gifts and help support Our Savior's Sugar Creek Bible Camp Camperships and World Hunger! You can't

**KWIK TRIP**

**WOODMAN'S**



beat that!!

Culver's, Kwik Trip, Kwik Trip car wash, Woodman's.

Available after worship services and in the office during the week.

# Faith Formation ...

## Sunday School



Our children have been spending a lot of time working on their Christmas program and are excited to be able to share it with the congregation on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Important Dates

**Saturday, December 9 - 3-5 PM - Christmas Program rehearsal - note time change!!**

**Sunday, December 10 - 10:30 AM - Christmas Program**

## Sunday School Offering ... Water is Life



Lack of safe water is one of the biggest challenges to overcoming poverty. It's also one of the most powerful opportunities to create change. With a simple water well, as many as 500

families gain access to clean, safe water. Communities are healthier. People spend less money on medical expenses and more on food and education. And, instead of spending hours each day gathering water for the family, women and children have time for work and school. Talk about a future filled with hope! A simple water well costs \$2,500. We are doing our part to obtain a share of providing a well.

***These first months of Sunday School we have collected over \$250!! Thank you!!*** Check out the bulletin board by Pastor Jean's office to watch our water buckets fill up.



**NO KID SLEEPS  
ON THE FLOOR  
IN OUR TOWN!.**

## **Hungry Jar Offering for December – Sleep in Heavenly Peace**

Across the US, too many kids go without a bed—or even a pillow—to sleep on. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets, and even floors, which has adverse effects on their physical and mental health. All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is a national organization with local chapters – one right here in LaCrosse. They are a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds free of charge to children and families in need.

Each bed that SHP delivers to a child sleeping on the floor offers comfort and safety. Oftentimes, the kids who get their beds have never owned a bed of their own. Every kid deserves a good night's rest. \$250 will sponsor a bed and mattress, along with a pillow, sheet set, and comforter. Our gifts make sure kiddos have a comfy place to lay their heads at night.



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

♥ October – Quilt Shipping - \$804.33

# Faith Formation ...



## Confirmation Ministry

December ... and confirmation continues!  
No classes for any grade on December 27,  
but otherwise ...

**6<sup>th</sup> grade** meets on Wednesdays at 6 PM, continuing to work through the story of God at work in our world.

**7<sup>th</sup> grade** has no class on December 6, but most of the kids are a part of the Hanging of the Greens at 7 PM. Be there! And then class resumes with an elective on December 13, and caroling on December 20 at **6 PM** (note the time). ***Some parental help with the caroling will be important!***

**8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders** have no class on December 6, but join us for the Hanging of the Greens at 7 PM. Classes resume on December 13 with 8<sup>th</sup> grade learning more about prayer and 9<sup>th</sup> graders thinking "Discipleship." Both grades join with the caroling on December 20 at **6 PM**, and again, ***some parental help will be needed.***

See Pastor Jon for more information – and remember, there is always room for new students!

## Friendly reminder ...

7<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> graders should be working on their Worship Notes ... you are **EXPECTED** to do 20 notes before the end of April! Check the bulletin board across from Pastor Jean's office to see how you're doing!





As our college students are studying in challenging environments at home or on campus, we keep

college  
connection



them in our thoughts and prayers. This month please pray for: **Delaney Christianson** (Viterbo), **Elsa Mitchell** (New York University), **Connor Koepp** (UW-EC), **Lauren Bell** (UW-M), **Tyler Mathison** (UW-Stout), and **Ben Larson** (WTC).



## Adult Bible Study

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

We are still studying ... so much to learn ... and, yes, really, fun to be had! 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, December 12**





## World Hunger

Once again, we will be raising monies for World Hunger, this year focusing on the Water Projects along with the Sunday School classes. In the gathering area, you will find water ornaments (minimum of \$10 donation), Fairtrade chocolate bars, and locally sold coffee from Bean Juice, who has a working relationship with their farmers. We will also be selling Scrip cards at this time. Please stop by to buy a small gift or give a donation to support our World Hunger Water Project. Our 2024 goal will be to financially support 3 wells (a well is \$2,500)! WATER IS LIFE - our world thanks you!

## 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!



## Fall Stewardship Ministry

Our fall stewardship ministry is continuing. Thank you to all who have responded, and for all the support you have shared with us over the years. ***Together we have made a difference!***

As you are able, please return your statement of intent card as that allows us to build a responsible mission budget for 2024. If you have misplaced it, contact the church office.

Meanwhile, we invite your continued support of our work together for the sake of people, the gospel, and Jesus Christ. ***Your support of our ministry, especially in trying times, makes a difference in the world, so we invite your continued, even increased, support of our work together.***



## Tech Invite

As we gradually roll out our new tech in the sanctuary, we are looking for folk who are interested in “working the system.” If you might be one of them,

Dean Olson invites you to join him during worship and see how it all comes together – and maybe discover that it isn’t as overwhelming as it looks! See Dean or Pastor Jon for more information.



Meanwhile, keep watching – livestreaming is coming soon!

## Sharing Our Story *God is at work in us!*



Really, God is at work in us! Check out our video on how God is at work in us. The link is on the home page of our web site.

But – God is at work in us “out there” too! And that’s what we want to hear. Share with us ways in which God is at work in you out in the world.

- In your employment/career/regular daily activities
- In your volunteer work through organizations
- In just the normal stuff you do every day!



A short story of what you do and how it makes a difference is all we need – though a picture too would be great! Could be a picture of you at work, or something that conveys the message.

We’d like to use this to make a sequel ... so make sure whatever you share is something we can share with others (no names will be used.)

So, watch the video ... share your story ... and know that God is at work in you!





## Nominations

It's getting to be that time – time to lift up new leaders for our mission and ministry. We will be seeking leaders willing to share their time and talent with the Congregation Council, Mission Endowment Fund, Synod Assembly, Sugar Creek, and Eagle Crest Communities. If you ... or someone you know ... has the gifts and the calling to provide leadership for our work together, contact Jeff Haldeman or one of the pastors. *These are challenging and exciting times ... yet, God is at work in you!*



- ♥ 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.



## Building Projects Update!

As we noted last month, the lighting outside the Leonard St entrance is complete, and looks great! The rest of the projects, both those we planned and those storm-related, are on hold until spring. We continue to be in contact with DBS Group to ensure that all gets completed properly.

The Annual Meeting (January 28) will consider bids to complete the storm damage repairs. As most of that cost is covered by insurance, the cost will not be nearly as high to the congregation. More details will be available in the January newsletter.

Finally, please remember the capital appeal. These projects are important not to fix a building, but to provide the resources for our ministry. In the end, we are “fixing for Jesus!”

## Ministry Restart



Post pandemic one of the ministries that came to an end was "funeral lunches". We are very grateful to the faithful who were a part of that ministry for so many years. It's a lot of hard, dedicated work!

Now, there is some conversation about restarting the Funeral Lunch ministry. If you have an interest in being a part of this "restart", please see Jon or Maryrose Hetland, or one of the pastors. This ministry can be a great gift to those who are working through their grief. Can you be a part of God's work in their lives?

# Capital Fund Appeal



The Capital Fund Appeal continues! To date over \$75,000 has been given or pledged toward our goal of \$250,000 in three years. THANK YOU to all who have stepped forward to help maintain our building and facilities as we move into the future. An update on the building project, along with the storm damage work, is elsewhere in this newsletter.

We continue to invite intents and gifts to meet these needs. It is never too late to share your intent with us. Remember that gifts can be made by marking your envelope “building fund,” or you can make an electronic gift. Use the QR code or go to our giving page at [oursaviorswestsalem.org/giving/](http://oursaviorswestsalem.org/giving/).



Thank you all for your support and your sharing with us. For more information contact the office or speak with one of the pastors.

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## *Thank you ...*

... to the November newsletter mailing crew: Connie Blunck, Carolyn Karl, and Carol Thompson.

... to Jane Reinl, Melissa Haldeman, and Carol Thompson for organizing, setting up, and cleaning up after the pie social on Thanksgiving Eve. Thank you also to all who brought pies – they were yummy! It was a wonderful event!

... to Tiffany Janisch and her family for planning and preparing the annual “Thanksgiving Goodie Bag” gifts for our shut-ins. Thanks too to all who delivered the bags, connecting with those who are isolated.

## *Received from others ...*

... Your response to the request for making 42 dozen cookies for our students at the University was overwhelming! Nineteen bakers made 64 dozen cookies. That’s 768 of the most delicious, unique and awesome cookies. They got there for the November 1<sup>st</sup> distribution. Many thanks for your generosity from the UW campus ministry.

*Carolyn Karl*

... Thank you, Our Savior’s West Salem! Thank you all so much for the cookies! We enjoyed them so much, you helped raise the spirits of 150+ students!

*Pastor Paul Drees, LaMin*

... Thank you to the Council and others who remembered us with your prayers, cards, and gifts for Pastor Appreciation. We thank you for your thoughtfulness and are grateful for your partnership in ministry.

*Pastors Jon & Jean*





## LWR – School Kits

Thank you to the congregation for your continued support of the School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We were able to complete 111 kits, an increase of 10 kits from last year! The Wednesday “After School” confirmation student volunteers assisted with counting and bundling pens and pencils, sorting items, and the final building of the kits.

All LWR donations were boxed and transported to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in La Crosse on October 14th. Thank you to those volunteers who helped load the vehicles and drive the kits to La Crosse. From there they were to be trucked to the LWR warehouse in South St. Paul, MN, for redistribution. In previous years they have gone to Lebanon, Rwanda, Georgia (the country), the Bahamas, and Honduras.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this project a success! We look forward to continuing this project in 2024.

*Tiffany Janisch*

*In Loving Memory*

*Memorial Gifts Received ...*

*In Memory of Tom Niemeier for  
Tech Project from*

**Bonnie Gensch**



# Year End Contributions



With the end of the year fast approaching, this is the time to make sure you are up to date on your financial

support of our ministry at Our Savior's. *Your gifts **DO** make a difference!* You can mail your gifts to the office, go to the church website: [www.oursaviorswestsaalem.org](http://www.oursaviorswestsaalem.org), or use the QR code for secure electronic giving options.



In order to be included on your 2023 giving statement, gifts must be received in the church office **by 11 AM on December 31, 2023**. Any checks dated 2024, regardless of when they are received, will be acknowledged for 2024.



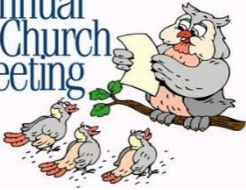
## 2024 Offering Envelopes

If you haven't already received your offering envelopes for 2024 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. **Note: it is possible you will have a new number in 2024, so be sure to use the 2024 envelopes beginning in January.**



Also note, if you use electronic giving, you will still receive envelopes as you need to have a giving number.

## Annual Church Meeting



## Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar – the annual meeting has been set for Sunday, **January 28, 2024**, following the 10:30

worship service. We will review our ministry over the past year, set our mission priorities for the coming year, and select leadership. We will also consider several minor revisions to the constitution of the congregation. Please plan to join us!



## ANNUAL REPORT

## Thinking Ahead ... 2023 Annual Report deadlines

It's hard to imagine, but the new year is right around the corner. And that means getting an annual report together to share with the congregation all that has happened in 2023. 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 and Financial Reports by Monday, January 8.**

# Mission Endowment Fund



*We continue our series of articles on Endowments, what they are, what they do, and ways you can support the ministry of endowments that work for you.*

## Life Insurance Policies

Life insurance policies can make excellent gifts to ministry. By simply changing policy beneficiaries, your favorite ELCA ministry can ultimately receive all or a percentage of the death benefit of your life insurance policy. Transferring a cash value policy to a ministry avoids ordinary income tax while you receive a charitable income tax deduction. Purchasing a life insurance policy in the name of the ELCA or the La Crosse Area Synod or Our Savior's will ultimately leave a substantial gift to a favorite ministry. In turn, you receive an income tax deduction for the annual premium that you pay on the new policy. Life insurance gifts are a great help to your church ministries as they seek to carry out their Christian missions.

By the way ... Pastor Jon has done this with a policy he owned (Our Savior's is one of his beneficiaries), and can share with you how this can work.

For more information speak with one of the pastors, or with a member of Our Savior's Mission Endowment Team – Jeff Rich, Lee Friell, Katie Drury, Melody Schmitz, Scott Thompson.



## 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 “young adult ministry” carried out by LuMin, the campus ministry in La Crosse. Our support enables LuMin to reach young adults, supporting them during a very vulnerable time of life, and nurturing them to be leaders of faith in the years to come.

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](http://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 out our ...*

### **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, to support the general fund ... or summer lunch ... or world hunger ... or youth fund ... or the building fund. Your gifts and regular support make a difference, and the QR Code makes it easy to find!

# 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-Oct	Actual-YTD	Budget-YTD
Income	\$30,452.84	\$260,592.44	\$301,187.50
Prepaid		\$13,362.00	\$13,362.00
Expense	\$35,850.50	\$308,160.73	\$317,592.50
Net	(\$5397.66)	(\$34,206.29)	
2023 Worship Life – Weekly average			
	In-building Actual	Online Estimate	TOTAL
October	182	67	249
Year to Date	154	70	224



## Congregation Council

The Congregation Council met on Monday, November 13, with President Jeff Haldeman presiding.

At this meeting the council:

- Shared in devotions based on Luke 17:11-19.
- Approved the minutes from the October meeting, and received financials for October and the pastors' reports.
- Heard reports on a number of congregational ministries.
- Approved the purchase of two microphones for use in the front of the sanctuary.
- Agreed to participate in a "Lenten round-robin" with other congregations on the area.
- Received an update on the building work, storm damage, and the capital campaign.
- Heard that the parking lot holes have been filled, and that a fresh load of gravel will be applied in spring.
- Heard a report on the dishwasher, and authorized a new water softener and heater to address water needs in the kitchen.
- Approved the June Dairy Days distribution, with \$1412 to World Hunger and \$1412 to the roof project.
- Received information on nominations needed for the annual meeting and discussed the process to lift up leaders.
- Received a copy of constitution revisions recommended by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly.
- Directed the pastors to explore insurance quotes once the current storm damage is complete.
- Discussed the December council meeting and family party.
- Set the annual meeting for Sunday, January 28, 2024, following the 10:30 AM worship service.

The council next meets on Monday, December 11 at 7 PM, at Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean's home. 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.

# Worship Leaders - December



## December 2-3

### 6 p.m.

Worship Assistant Max Langrehr  
Communion Assistant Judy Morzinski  
Reader Karen DeSchepper  
Welcoming Team Maki Family

### 8 a.m.

Worship Assistant Olivia Sprehn  
Communion Assistant Eric Iliff  
Welcoming Team M&S Sprehn Fam

### 10:30 a.m.

Alana Steinke  
Kyle Twite  
Baganz Family

Home Communion  
Altar Guild – December

Pam Gresens  
Pam Gresens

## December 9-10

### 6 p.m.

Worship Assistant Addy Tlustosch  
Communion Assistant Bonny Goodenough  
Welcoming Team Arentz Family

### 8 a.m.

Worship Assistant Ariel Wuensch  
Communion Assistant Pam Gresens  
Reader Jeanne Peterson  
Welcoming Team Marinelli Family

### 10:30 a.m.

Isaac Arentz  
Carolyn Karl  
E Hebrink Fam

Home Communion

Carolyn Karl

## December 16-17

### 6 p.m.

Worship Assistant Will Byom  
Communion Assistant Judy Gilbert  
Welcoming Team J&M Anderson

### 8 a.m.

Worship Assistant D Christianson  
Communion Assistant Sharon Olson  
Welcoming Team Byom Family

### 10:30 a.m.

A Clements  
Carla Burkhardt  
Stefferdud Fam

Home Communion

Ilene Pavelko



**December 23**

**6 p.m.**

Worship Assistant  
Communion Assistant  
Welcoming Team

Zander Clements  
Julie Quackenbush  
Keith & Jan Goetzinger

**December 24 – Christmas Eve**

**1:30 p.m.**

**3:30 p.m.**

Worship Assistant  
Communion Assistant  
  
Welcoming Team

Candace Drury  
E & J Iliff  
W Amundson  
Iliff Family

Jesse Jothan  
P Gresens, J Linse  
B Skittone  
Goodenough Fam

**5:30 p.m.**

**10 p.m.**

Worship Assistant  
Communion Assistant  
  
Welcoming Team

Anna Gross  
J Hetland, K Twite  
M Anderson  
Beckley Family

Campbell Laack  
Stacey Sjoquist  
  
J & M Haldeman

**December 25 – Christmas Day**

**10 a.m.**

Worship Assistant  
Communion Assistant  
Welcoming Team

Landon Labus  
Dori Jensen  
Larry & Connie Blunck

**December 30-31**

**6 p.m.**

Worship Assistant  
Welcoming Team

Leah Langrehr  
Jon Hetland

**8 a.m.**

**10:30 a.m.**

Worship Assistant  
Welcoming Team

Casey Mathison  
Mathison Family

Lily Muellenberg  
Twite Family



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. We are thankful for all the donations we have recently received. Many local families have benefited from your generosity. Monetary, food, and personal items are always appreciated.



### Vacation

Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean will be on vacation the week following Christmas. If you have need of pastoral care during this time, please contact the church office.

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

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Pastor Jean Schmidt, Associate Pastor                      612-0217  
Email: [pastorjean@oursaviorswestsalem.org](mailto:pastorjean@oursaviorswestsalem.org)  
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Linda Berg, Organist/Choir Accompanist/Director of Music  
Email: [linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org](mailto: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 –  
December 14**

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

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