# Our Savior's Voice

Our Savior's Lutheran Church 359 Leonard Street N - West Salem, WI 54669 www.oursaviorswestsalem.org 608-786-0030

## **June 2024**



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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### Worship Opportunities

Saturday 6 PM Sunday 8 & <u>10</u> AM

### Livestreaming of 10 AM worship is here!

Find the Livestreaming link on the home page of our website (www.oursaviorswestsalem.org) or at youtube.com/@techoslc. Click on "live" to access the livestream.

Livestreams remain on the YouTube page for later viewing (see below!)

### YouTube Changes!

For the past years Our Savior's has been posting our worship videos on YouTube – and we even have 171 subscribers!



However, videos will no longer be posted on the old YouTube channel, but instead on our new channel. You can access the channel at: **youtube.com/@techoslc**. Click on "live" to see the recordings of past worship services.

This is the same channel as the Livestream, - each week's Livestream is automatically recorded and posted there.

We invite you to subscribe to the new channel to keep up to date with our online worship. Thank you for your understanding and your support of our virtual ministry!



## Pastor's Reflections ...

Summer is here ...

We're off to a running start for Pastor Jon's sabbatical. His seat isn't even cold and we're dealing with new projects, old projects, meetings, cleaning, planning, and visiting ... the list is long ... where to start, what to do?

Many of the committees met just before Pastor Jon left and they now have "to do" lists that will keep them busy while he's gone ...

- We're still dealing with roofs and storm damage at church and Johnson South
- The Property Committee has a bunch of "little things" to tackle that will add up and may necessitate some help
- The Social Media group is getting things set up and helping to get "the word" out
- The Youth Committee gathers around the fire pit for conversation and



conspiring, making plans for a mission trip or servant event

- Worship is already making plans for Gospel on the Green and our Beer & Hymns Campfire Edition
- The Council is working on a display for National Night Out
- Outreach is recovering from June Dairy Days, and now watching the weather and the crop reports anticipating the Corn Roast
- Angie and her crew have begun feeding the children of our community with nutritious, healthy lunches twice a week; and they are always grateful for your generous support of "things" and dollars.

- Pastor Jon's sermon prep class participants are eager, and maybe a bit "anxious", to share their sermons with you. These labors of love have been thoughtfully crafted through study, research, creativity, conversation, and mutual support.
- We are always discovering new things about the sound system, and Dean is working hard to anticipate the glitches and fix them as they occur. He is hoping to get more people involved working this new system ... you?
- Linda is having fun "playing" with the new organ, experimenting with all that it has to offer, and preparing for a "Letting out all the stops!" concert in the fall.
- Classrooms are being cleaned and readied for the fall; materials are being put away where they belong, while new materials are already being ordered; offices are being straightened up and reorganized.
- Lest we forget, most importantly, ministry continues ... we hear God's Word, partake in the Sacraments, and gifted musicians and vocalists share their talents.

The church does not rest just because it's summer, nor do we take a break in the summer. There is always something going on, people making



God often does His best work behind the scenes.

things happen. There may not be as many of us around to see the work that is happening, but rest assured things are getting done and faithful people are doing it.

And all Pastor Jon is doing is sitting around, with his feet up ... and if you believe that ... hmmm! Seriously, he is faithfully, intentionally taking the time to see where God is at work in creation, and capturing those moments with pictures.

Does it have to take a sabbatical and time away to see God at work in our lives? Even in the midst of our chaotic world, where we are pulled in more directions than we can fathom, where at times we are overwhelmed and weighed down, where our routines and schedules leave us little time for ourselves ... can you still see God at work in your life ... do



you take the time or make the time to see God around you ...

It's going to be a full summer and we invite you to join us and be a part of it ... with your time

and talents and financial resources ... and in the meantime, take a moment to intentionally find God in your day, and don't forget to check out where Pastor Jon has found God that day ... maybe it will give you something to ponder, too!

Finding God today with you ...

Pastor Jean



- ♥ 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.

### Sabbatical Plans

Pastor Jon's sabbatical has begun. His time away will include some work on photography and exploring the many ways and places that God is at work in our world. He'll be sharing those discoveries in photos posted on our new Facebook page (search for "Our Savior's ELCA – West Salem").



Meanwhile, Pastor Jean will carry on the ministry ... with lots of help!

One of those "helps" will be preachers sharing the message. Following completion of a six-week workshop, we've got some preachers all lined up and ready to share. Come and support them as they proclaim the good news of Jesus!

> June 15/16 – Jeff Haldeman June 22/23 – Brenda Skittone June 29-30 – Trudy Drugg July 6/7 – Berit Gilbertson July 27/28 – Dori Jensen (Pastor Jean on vacation)

Pastor Jean will be absent June 8/9 for Synod Assembly (a message from Bishop Malpica will be shared), and July 20/21 (Pastor Kris Bjerke-Ulliman will be with us).



**Breaking news** ... Our Savior's has a new Facebook page. Search for "Our Savior's ELCA – West Salem" and follow us! We're also working on Instagram. More on that in the future, but for now ... check out Facebook!

#### Sunday School Offering... Water is Life

We thank our Sunday School children for sharing their offerings with us during the year. They collected \$592.74 for the ELCA World Hunger Water Project. During our end-of-year party, the children voted to designate their offerings for: a share of the Safe Water Project (\$250); a Latrine (\$150); an Irrigation system (\$100); 3 water filters (\$30/ea.); and a Hygiene Kit (\$25).





Check out the wall by Pastor Jean's office ... Look at all of those buckets! Each bucket holds \$30.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of so many people!



### Adult Bible Study ... taking a break!

Wednesday morning Bible study is on a break through July. We'll resume in August with Pastor Jean leading the conversation. Plan ahead to join us as we explore God's word!



### Sugar Creek Bíble Campers

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



#### <u>June 16-21</u>

#### <u>June 23-28</u>

Ava Johnsrude Mabel Sjoquist Ryland Byom Will Byom Alise Jothen

Jesse Jothen Quinn Maki Ellie Tlustosch

#### Hungry Jar Offering for June Sugar Creek Bible Camp -General Support "Preated to Be"



Faith formation at camp is a way of life lived out in holy play, caring conversations, and intentional time in God's beautiful creation. Faith expressions go beyond worship and Bible study to permeate every aspect of the camp experience. No matter your age, race, or income level, Sugar Creek has a program designed for you, with programming available year-round! Your generous contributions will help provide a camping experience for all who want to attend – no one is turned away.



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

April – OSLC Camperships - \$569.64

#### **High School Graduates**

We congratulate all of our high school graduates and share some of their plans for the future:



Siri Anderson – UW Madison Mia Bahl – UW Eau Claire Ben Bakkum – UW LaCrosse - archeology Adelyn Burt – WTC – graphic design Haley Chandler - Lindenwood University - technical theater & entertainment design Sophie Clements – WTC – respiratory therapy Ray Fullwood – WTC – occupational therapy Berit Gilbertson – Augustana University – exercise science and psychology Lizzie Hesse – UW LaCrosse – pre-law Carson Hundt - entering the workforce Jon Iliff – WTC – interior design Ella Janisch – WTC – dental assistant Nick Jones - UW Stevens Point Reice Kammel – UW Madison Mya Koudelka – WTC Nolan Langrehr – University of North Dakota – wildlife and fisheries biology Keaton Linse – UW LaCrosse Celia Mitchell – University of MN-Twin Cities – physics and mathematics Kenzie Murphy – UW Eau Claire Svdney Niemeier – UW LaCrosse Elliott Sjoquist - UW LaCrosse - aquatic science biology Amanda Vick – UW LaCrosse - psychology Jack Witte – working at Maxwell White (plumbing) Riley Wuensch – WTC - HVAC

### **College Scholarship Recipients**



Congratulations to the recipients of college scholarships from Our Savior's! This year, with a very strong class of seniors, we had a record number of applicants. The

Scholarship Committee worked hard to consider these young people and were able to offer support to all of them.

The following high school seniors have been awarded scholarships for this coming year:

Marking Scholarships

- Jon Iliff, Western Technical College
- Ray Fullwood, Western Technical College
- Mya Koudelka, Western Technical College
- Nolan Langrehr, University of North Dakota

**Michelson Scholarships** 

- Ella Janisch, Western Technical College
- Celia Mitchell, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
- Amanda Vick, UW-L
- Berit Gilbertson, Augustana University

Piper Scholarship

• Elliot Sjoquist, UW-L

We are pleased and excited to be able to make these awards, assisting these young people in developing the talents and abilities which God has entrusted to their care. We are also grateful to the Marking, Michelson, and Piper families for providing the resources for the scholarships this year.



#### Feed Our Children Summer Lunch Program

Summer Lunch 2024 is off and running! Currently we are looking for donations of Zip Lock bags (snack and sandwich size), brown paper lunch sacks, fruit

cups or applesauce cups, granola bars, and snack items like goldfish or teddy grahams. Items may be placed in the baskets in the Gathering Area. Financial contributions are also always welcome – make checks **payable to Our Savior's**, and note in the **memo line: Feed Our Children**.

If you are interested in volunteering to help make or serve lunches (Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 am - 12:30 pm starting June 4<sup>th</sup>), use the following link: <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B45ADA928A1FACE</u> <u>9-49671256-summer</u> Or, contact Angie Hemker (feedourchildrenws@gmail.com).

Lunches will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays for pick up from 11:00 am -12:30 pm at the East Avenue entrance. There will be a limited amount of delivery spots.

Check the bulletin each week for updates, as well as the Feed Our Children Facebook page. Thank you for your support of this important ministry.

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



### A Musical Blast from the Past!

Did you know ... 61 years ago Our Savior's Choir became pop stars?

In 1963 the choir released an album. Directed by Mrs. Walter Ekeren, and accompanied by Pam Ranger, the choir sang a number of sacred pieces, including a cantata by JS Bach.

Ok, so it didn't make the Billboard Top 100, but we've got a copy of that album, and after 61 years it sounds pretty good!



Recently, we converted the album to digital format, and have we got a deal for you! For a free-will donation to the World Hunger Appeal, we will provide you with your choice:

- A copy of the digital version on your flash drive.
- A CD-ROM with the music files to play on a computer.
- An audio CD to play on a CD player.

Your donation will go toward meeting the needs of hungry, even starving folk. I'll bet the choir 61 years ago had no idea what an impact their music could have!

To "place your order," contact the office. Bring your flash drive or ask for the CD-ROM or CD. We'll get it to you as soon as we can.

#### LaCrosse Area Synod News ...



### Synod Assembly Worship



The LaCrosse Area Synod will gather on Sunday, June 9 at 10 AM in Riverside

Park to worship together as a Synod ... and you are invited!

**Note:** We will still have worship here at Our Savior's during our regular times that weekend. Bishop Malpica will have a recorded message to be shared in the congregations.

### Let's get a group together



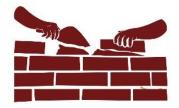
If you would like to be part of a group from Our Savior's use the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area and **WE** will order the tickets together. Or ... feel free to order your own tickets. To be included in the OSLC ticket block, <u>your \$15 (per</u> <u>ticket) is due to the church office by Sunday, June 16</u>.

### **Building Projects Update**

Building work is happening ... and projects are being completed ... check it out!

Leonard St entrance lighting ... completed last fall!

Tuckpointing and caulking ... completed in April!



#### Flat rooi ... working right now!

And we know they are at work – as we write this we can hear them working on the roof above us!

#### Pitched roof and siding storm damage ... soon

The pitched roof, siding, and skylights, which were damaged in the storm last July, will be replaced following the completion of the flat roof. The roof was part of our long-term



plan, and while insurance will not cover the full cost, it will



significantly reduce our future outlays. We expect this to be completed by early June.

#### New organ ... in and at work!

Thanks to the crew from Rodgers ... and thanks to our folk (Dean Olson, Gary & Linda Berg, Kyle Berg, Jeff & Melissa Haldeman, Eric Ender, and Mike Larson) who assisted with the installation on May 5.

#### **Ceiling tiles** ... later this summer

Watch for information later this summer on a "ceiling tile" party to replace the tiles in the Gathering Area and the Library. We'll even spring for lunch!

#### Your continued support ...

of our *Capital Campaign* is vital – the work is getting done, but we still have to "pay the bills." Gifts actually received are about \$50,000 shy of the total needed. So … if you have pledged or not, your continued gifts are critical.

Meanwhile, *thank you* for the support you have already shared with us! We are grateful for your gifts. Your gifts, with those of many others, is making a difference in our building and in our



ministry in the world as we "renew this place for the sake of all God's people!"

For more information on these projects, or our Capital Campaign, see Jeff Haldeman or one of the pastors.



Please note that **during the work period** the entrance by the

alley may be restricted due to equipment in place. Please **use the East Avenue entrance** instead.



### Capital Campaign Update – by, Jan Wee

Many important maintenance and replacement updates to our church are



happening <u>right now</u> thanks to your generosity and support! We are truly a community of disciples striving to provide a safe and welcoming environment for our building.

- The **new digital organ** has been delivered, setup, and Linda Berg and others are learning its wonderful features. Speakers have been installed in the sanctuary, and the dedication of the new organ was May 25/26. Thank you to the volunteers who helped us install the new organ and speakers. Check out the wonderful photos on our website under Resources/Photos. There is also a video available under Resources/Videos.
- *Tuckpointing and caulking* is completed, along with repairing the *base* of our sign out front of the church.
- No doubt you have seen cranes and workers atop our flat roof! We anticipate Ledegar's roofing work being completed by the end of June. Bills will come due, but the final insurance settlement isn't finalized yet.
- The Building Project / Capital Campaign Committee met on May 6 and discussed the budget status. It is likely that we will need to transfer funds from *Endowment Pooled Trust* to cover all the maintenance updates. The shortfall is between \$40-75,000 and is based on the expected insurance settlement and Building Project Capital Campaign giving patterns at this time of year.

Please reaffirm your commitment to support the Building Project. If possible, *please make a payment during the summer months when bills are coming due.* Every dollar helps and is appreciated.

#### **Tech Invite**



As we continue to 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.





### QUILTERS ARE LOOKING FOR SHEETS

We are on our way to making 300 quilts again this year, but we need your help. We are looking for used sheets, light weight blankets, and larger pieces of material for quilt backings. If you are spring cleaning and have any extras we will gladly take them off your hands. Donations can be dropped off at the church during office hours or Sunday mornings. If you have any questions please contact Maryrose Hetland at <u>mhetland405@gmail.com</u>. Thank you!



#### Pastoral Acts:

Baptism – Madison Herman – May 18 Burial – Ted & Bergene Wilcox – May 18 Funeral – Linda Spah – May 20



### Thank you ...

... to the May newsletter mailing crew: Larry & Connie Blunck, Bev Bockenhauer, Renee Herman, Carolyn Karl, and Carol Thompson.

... to those who helped with the organ removal and installation ... Linda, Gary, & Kyle Berg; Dean Olson; Mike Larson; Eric Ender; Jeff & Melissa Haldeman, Weston & Amara. Along with Peggy and her two wonderful helpers from Rodgers Organ Company in Minnesota.

#### Received from others ...

... Dear Scholarship Committee, I am so grateful and blessed to be awarded a scholarship from you. This truly means a lot as I start my next journey in life. Receiving this scholarship from the Marking Scholarship Fund will help me pursue my degree in Sonography at the University of Minnesota – Rochester. With gratitude,

Mya Koudelka

In Leving Memory



Memorial Gifts Received ...

In Memory of Bud Miyamoto for Endowment Fund

#### From Eric & Lynette Ender

In Memory of Jim Johnson for Camperships From Vicky Johnson



### **Financial Support Ministry**

As we approach the end of the year!

### THANK YOU!!! Thank you for your continued financial support of our ministry together!

Like ... our support of Sugar Creek Bible Camp, and the kids

who receive camperships to attend camp. Lives are changed when they encounter Jesus, and when they experience a caring community rooted in God's love. Your support helps make that ministry happen!



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 or use our QR code.

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!

2024 Ministry at Work			
	Actual-Apr	Actual-YTD	Budget-YTD
Income	\$22,348.16	\$110,291.11	\$123,450.00
Pregiven		\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00
Expense	\$29,364.54	\$121,397.95	\$127,791.40
Net	(\$7016.38)	(\$2106.84)	
2024 Worship Life – Weekly average			
	In-building Actual	Online Estimate	TOTAL
April	270	95	365
Year to Date	222	86	308



### **Congregation Council**

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

At this meeting the council:

- Shared in devotion based on 1 Corinthians 15.
- Approved minutes from the April meeting, and received financial reports and pastor's reports.
- Heard that new signage will be installed May 23.
- Received Kelcee Burrell and Dave Hemker as new members, and heard of others in process.
- Heard the Youth Ministry Team met with a number of kids interested in some form of mission trip.
- Discussed the ongoing building work, the parking lot "regravel," and potential work on the rental property roof.
- Amended the rental lease to reflect additional pets.
- Authorized a change in signers for one of the Endowment Pooled Trust accounts.
- Discussed training for a new and expanded counting team.
- Heard an update on Pastor Jon's sabbatical.
- Asked the pastors to prepare a draft for a revised memorial policy.
- Decided to reduce office hours during the first two weeks of July due to vacation times.
- Agreed to participate in the synod-wide "Loggers" game (July 7) and National Night Out (August 6).
- Appointed Graham Sjoquist as an additional youth voting member at the 2024 Synod Assembly.
- Received new policies and procedures for funeral lunches.
- Reviewed the membership list and removed from voting membership a number of persons who have not participated in congregational life in over two years. Noted that if such persons resume participation, they can easily be restored.

The council next meets on Monday, June 10 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.



#### **Mission Endowment Fund**

We continue our series of articles on Endowments, what they are, what they do,

and how they can support the ministry of Our Savior's Mission Endowment Fund in ways that work for you.

#### **U.S. Bonds**

**U.S. Bonds** can be used to fund a life income gift such as a gift annuity. When U.S. bonds are cashed the recipient pays ordinary taxes on the gain in the bonds, which is why so many are never cashed in by seniors. However, by cashing bonds and using the funds to enter an ELCA gift annuity, seniors can use the charitable deduction obtained from the gift annuity to help offset the income taxes from the savings bonds. The best part is that they will then obtain a partly tax-free income for life, and the net result may be far better than if they simply cashed the bonds. If you have U.S. Bonds, consider whether the cash from them may be used to make a gift that returns a life income for you.

A gift annuity can support the ongoing ministry of Our Savior's, or it can support the Mission Endowment Fund, ensuring that those gifts will continue to make a difference for years to come.

As always, it is important to consult a financial professional to see how this might work for you.

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.

#### Worship Leaders - June

Worship Assistant Communion Assistant Welcoming Team

Worship Assistant Communion Assistant Welcoming Team

Home Communion

Altar Guild June

Worship Assistant

Welcoming Team

Worship Assistant

Welcoming Team

#### June 1-2

6 p.m. Harper Niemeier Chad Vick

**8 a.m.** Kirsten Rasmussen Eric Ender Labus Family

Daryl Wermedal

**10 a.m.** Darrell Smith Corey Sjoquist Giblin Family

Cindy Averbeck / Jaime Fortier

#### June 8-9 - Synod Assembly

**6 p.m.** Sophia Sprehn McNaughton Family

8 a.m. Amy Stefferud Stefferud Family **10 a.m.** Camille Zarecki M & J Larson

#### June 15-16

Anna Vick

Eric Ender

Laack Family

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant Communion Assistant Welcoming Team

Worship Assistant Communion Assistant Welcoming Team

Home Communion

**8 a.m.** Paige Christianson Brenda Skittone Steve & Sue Ahles **10 a.m.** Chloe Drury Michelle Witte Jothen Family

Dottie Baumgartner & Bev Bockenhauer



Worship Assistant Communion Assistant Welcoming Team

Worship Assistant Communion Assistant Welcoming Team

Home Communion

6 p.m.

June 22-23

Anna Vick Judy Gilbert Keith & Jan Goetzinger

8 a.m. Claire Gross Sharon Olson E & B Sorenson 10 a.m.

Sophia Johnson Jeff Haldeman Baumgartner/Hehl

Judy Gilbert

#### June 29-30

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant Communion Assistant Welcoming Team

Worship Assistant Communion Assistant Welcoming Team

Home Communion

#### Addison Kendhammer Jon Hetland Vick Family

8 a.m. Maxwell Langrehr Berit Gilbertson B Gilbertson Fam

10 a.m. Olivia Sprehn Naoko Giblin **D&N** Christianson



Carolyn Karl



If you would like to read lessons during worship, we would love to have you. Use the SignUpGenius link to sign up:



www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044CA5A629A7F85-reader or call the church office (608-786-0030) and we'll help.



#### **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.



#### **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.

#### 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 beat that!!







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

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

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

Pastor Jonathan Schmidt, Senior Pastor (608) 612-0217 Email: pastorjon@oursaviorswestsalem.org Pastor Jean Schmidt, Associate Pastor (608) 612-0217 Email: pastorjean@oursaviorswestsalem.org Kris Seeger, Administrative Assistant Church Office: (608) 786-0030 Email: office@oursaviorswestsalem.org 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 – June 14

### Keeping up with life at Our Savior's

Check out the photo gallery on our website (<u>www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/photo-galleries/</u>) to see what's been happening, including:

- ♥ High School graduate recognition
- Work on the building

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

**Change Service Requested** 

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