

March 29-30, 2025 Lent 4

Our Savior's Lutheran Church 359 North Leonard Street, West Salem, Wisconsin 608-786-0030 office@oursaviorswestsalem.org www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

> Pastor Jonathan M. Schmidt Pastor Jean R. Schmidt



WELCOME TO WORSHIP! God gathers us through Word and Sacrament to celebrate God's presence and to receive God's gift of grace. God has made us his people through our baptism and keeps us close to him through the preaching of the word and God's presence in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. We give thanks today for the gift of faith God has planted in us, and we depart to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

We extend a special **welcome** to those who are our guests. May God bless this time of worship for you as we are blessed by your presence. If you have no church home we invite you to join with us and consider Our Savior's as your church home. If you are not baptized and would like to talk about baptism as part of your faith journey, please speak with one of the pastors.

FELLOWSHIP PADS: We ask everyone to sign and pass the fellowship pad in the pew and return it to the rack when done.

OFFERING: No offering is collected during our worship this day; however, we do welcome your support of our ministries and thank you for your gifts. Together we make a difference in the lives of others.

Offering plates are available as you leave the sanctuary. For online giving go to the church website: oursaviorswestsalem.org/giving. Or text your gift amount to 608-471-7267 and follow the instructions on the response you receive. Thank you for your generosity and support of our work together.



Order of Worship

*Please stand as you are able

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS pp 211-212 (in front of hymnal)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

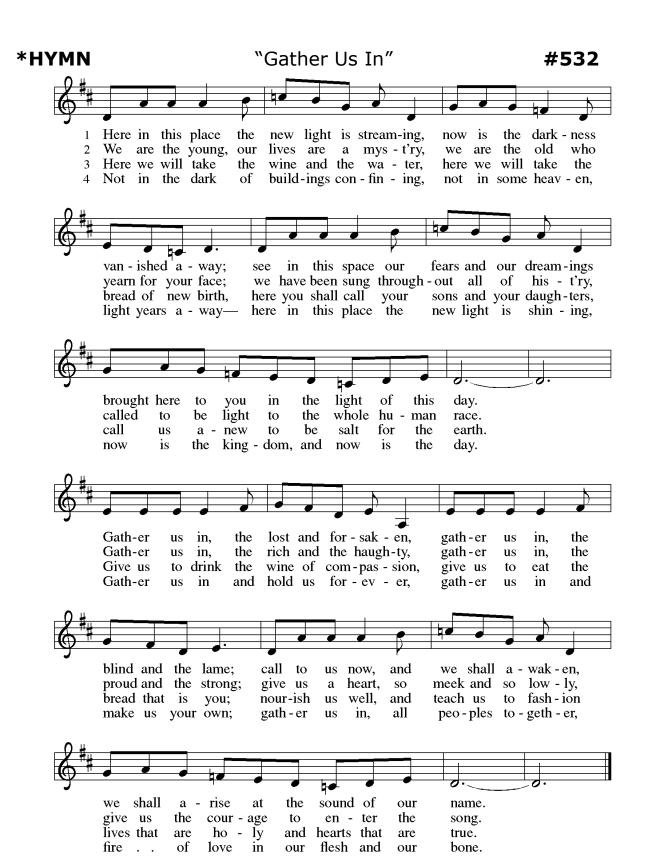
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.



*GREETING

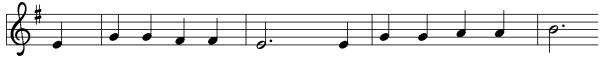
page 203 (in front of hymnal)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

*KYRIE

page 203 (in front of hymnal)



- 1 Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol-emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a way our sin.
- 3 Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de part.



We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de-spair. Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin. Re - new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

page 204 (in front of hymnal)



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for ev er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth: Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove; Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Je-sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa-ther's splen-dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise. Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand. For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creating God, this is the day that you have made. Joining the chorus that is rising throughout all the earth, we rejoice in this day. You take our endings, and you make your new beginnings. You surprise and astound us in places where we expected that you were absent. You meet us in the thresholds of our loves and invite us to reconsider what is possible. We give you thanks for this day and for your love that surrounds us.

Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Prodigal Son" 10:30 AM Senior Choir

As the anthem is sung please use this time for prayer and meditation. As the music concludes we ask to continue in silence. No applause please!

READING Psalm 46

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





*GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The Gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord!

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³So he told them this parable: 11b "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. 14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and

kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' 31 Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.""

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

*HYMN "Take My Life, That I May Be" #583



*APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

*PRAYERS

P: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

(After a brief silence...The **congregation** is invited to read aloud individually the prayer petitions as the spirit moves them. If more than one person reads the petition, all the better!)

God of new life, the journey to the cross and the tomb that lies beyond continues. As we journey, like your disciples long ago, we peer into the tombs of our hearts. So many things fill our inner tombs—broken relationships, failed attempts at selfimprovement, shame, anger, missed opportunities, and grief. Loving God,

meet us at the threshold.

God, some of our disappointments, losses, and grief are from long ago and yet they still feel fresh. Some are new and we feel the pain in our every breath. We lift up to you all that is within us and all that we carry. Loving God,

meet us at the threshold.

Jesus, we look ahead to the time when we will peer inside the tomb and find it empty. Like those of years past, who could not find you, sometimes it feels like we can't find you. Perhaps we, too, are looking in the wrong places. You are always with us, but often in ways that defy our expectations. Just as the tomb couldn't – and still cannot limit you, neither can we. Loving God, meet us at the threshold.

Open us to all the ways that you dwell in our midst. Help us to join Mary, and all your disciples to see your presence in new ways. Through your presence and love, transform our misunderstanding into learning and our hardheartedness into tenderhearted compassion. Help us to love others with your generous love. Loving God,

meet us at the threshold.

Gracious God, you have called your servants to be faithful disciples of Jesus. Be with our confirmation students, especially Autumn and Sophia as they seek to grow in their discipleship, and guide their families that together they may reflect your love and grace. Loving God,

meet us at the threshold.

God of those in need, those who seek your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. Bring healing and wholeness to those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit. Accompany those who are isolated, alone, or homebound, especially Bobbie and Diane. Loving God,

meet us at the threshold.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

*PEACE The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Please share a sign of peace with those around you.)

MISSION MOMENT

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

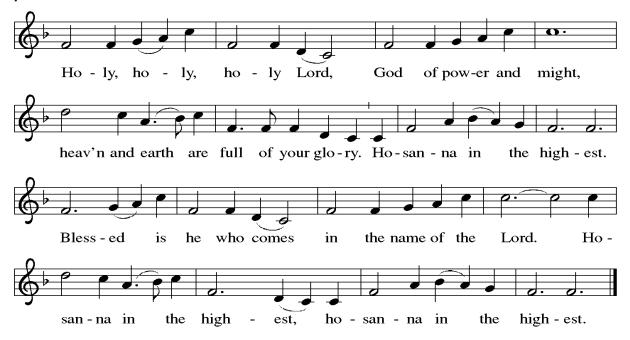
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed our right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

*LORD'S PRAYER page 208 (in front of hymnal)

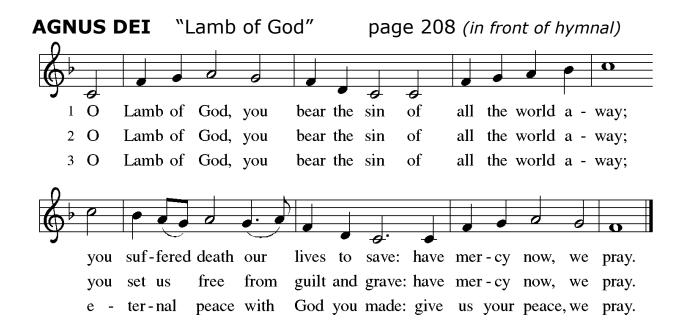
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

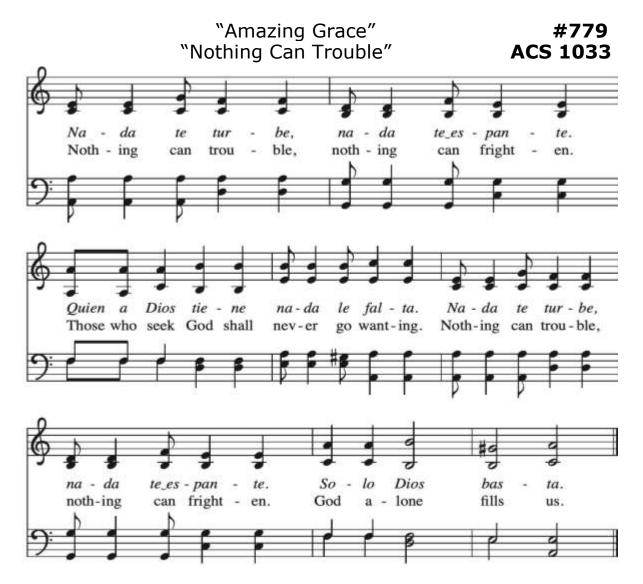
All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

HOLY COMMUNION All who believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord's Table. Younger children are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

Both wine and grape juice is available – grape juice glasses are purple. Gluten free wafers are also available.



COMMUNION HYMNS



*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***SENDING OF HOME COMMUNION**

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist XXX in this ministry on which she is/he is/they are sent forth. Bless her/his/their time with YY, and in your love and care, nourish and strengthen them in this sacrament, that through the body and blood of your Son we all may know the comfort of your abiding presence.

Amen.

*BLESSING

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.



*DISMISSAL (Done from the back of the church)

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

OUR SAVIOR'S WORSHIP TEAM

www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

Pastor Jonathan Schmidt, Senior Pastor 608-612-0217

Email: pastorjon@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Pastor Jean Schmidt, Associate Pastor 608-612-0217

Email: pastorjean@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Linda Berg, Organist/Choir Accompanist/Director of Music

Email: linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Wendy Amundson, Youth Director 608-518-9593

Email: youth@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Laurie Noelke, Handbell Choir Director/Assistant Worship Musician

Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director

CARD MINISTRY - Please be sure to sign the cards for this week's shut-ins, Bobbi Broughton and Diane McClintock. The cards are on the table by the Pre-K/K classroom.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP - A time for fellowship and treats between services on Sundays! Please sign up to bring treats or to serve what others have provided.

CONFIRMATION

Wednesday, April 2 Lenten Worship – 6:15 pm

BAPTISMS – in the waters of baptism, we welcome Violet Inez-Rigotti, daughter of Tyler & Allison Boudry. Violet's sponsors are Christine Moore and Donavon Ferguson.

We also welcome Lainey Belle-Denise, daughter of Jason & Stacy Steinke. Lainey's sponsor is Alana Steinke.

WORSHIP LEADERS

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant Alana Steinke Communion Assistant Alison Hemker

Welcoming Team Todd & Inger Michael

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant Lexi Schulz Communion Assistant Carolyn Karl

Welcoming Team Jayme & Erin Hansen

10:30 a.m.

Worship Assistant Addy Tlustosch Communion Assistant Sue Ahles

Welcoming Team Tom & Sarah Langrehr

Home Communion Bev Bockenhauer
Altar Guild for March Jill Iliff/Susan Giblin

Hungry Jar Offering for March - Lutheran Campus Ministry

Lutheran Campus Ministry at Common Ground is a Christ-centered community in the Lutheran tradition (ELCA) serving students at UW-L, Viterbo, and WTC. They ...

- ... believe that all people are created in God's image.
- ... are passionate about the radical hospitality that Jesus showed all people
- ... are committed to being a place of that same hospitality.
- ... welcome all people to our life and ministry together in worship, at the font, at the table, and in our life together regardless of race, gender identities, sexual orientation or any other category society uses to differentiate between people.

There is no longer Jew nor Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28

LuMin is a ministry of the ELCA and the La Crosse Area Synod. They are a Reconciling in Christ ministry. Being RIC means that they are intentional in being a place of welcome and safety for lesbian, gay, bisexual, asexual, transgender, and questioning people.

Special guest preacher ... Join us March 29-30

We thank Pastor Kathryn Thompson, LuMin Campus Pastor, for joining us in worship to share the message this weekend.

Join us during coffee fellowship time to learn what's new at Lutheran Campus Ministry at UW-L, Viterbo, and WTC.

Our March Hungry Jar offerings will help support the ministry at LuMin.



WE THANK - Joey Barnett for filling in as choir director while Eric Sorenson is in Arizona. Joey is a graduate of UW-Eau Claire, a member of the Coulee Chordsmen, and teaches Elementary Music in Black River Falls. We appreciate his willingness to substitute! Please welcome him if you get the opportunity.

St. Clare Mobile Clinic -

The pastors of the West Conference will gather on **April 1**st to hear about the work of St. Clare Mobile Clinic in the LaCrosse region. Congregations are invited to support this ministry by gathering donations of needed items: bandages and gauze (wound dressing), ACE bandages, medical tape, band-aids, protein shakes (Ensure, Boost, etc.), TUMs or other antacids, multivitamins, toiletries, condoms, tampons, pads, NEW hats, gloves, and underwear (especially seasonal). Donations can be left in the Gathering Area by March 30th. Also, to note, this ministry has been one of the recipients of our Mission Endowment Fund disbursements in recent years.

Midweek Lenten Worship

Wednesdays – April 2nd & 9th 6:15 PM Holden Evening Prayer

Break the norms of Lent with God's gift of humor... sights and sounds ... and a take-home reminder.

All in the shadow of the cross!





We will have a simple meal, along with dessert, prior to the service each week on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM – April 2nd & 9th.



First Communion Instruction

First Communion Instruction Part 2 – **Sunday March 30** ... from 1:30- 3 PM. Learn about the Sacrament, create your own communion cup, and bake some "unleavened" bread. *Parents* are asked to join us! For more information see Pastor Jean or Pastor Jon. Our students will receive communion for the first time during worship on Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 7 PM.



YOU CAN HELP - START SAVING NOW...

The LaCrosse Synod is looking for plastic bottle caps and jar lids for an art project to be used at Synod Assembly. We need the caps by **April 6th**. You can drop off your caps in the basket in the Gathering Area.



Monday, March 31 11:30 am – 5 pm WS Presbyterian Church **EASTER GARDEN** – if you are interested in ordering a spring flower for Easter, forms are due in the office by **April 7.**

The Mom's Group invites you ...

Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, April 13 at 10 AM (During Sunday school)

Parents: We invite you to be a part of this event that the kids very much look forward to! Speak with Gretchen Eckland or Pastor Jean to help buy the treats.





Palm Sunday - April 13

Saturday/6 PM & Sunday/8 + 10:30 AM Holy Communion worship Hearing the story of passion, sacrifice, and death ...

Maundy Thursday - April 17

Livestream - use link on homepage

7 PM Holy Communion with the *Stripping of the Altar as all is barren* ...

Good Friday - April 18

1:30 PM Service of the Word Pondering the Seven Last Words ...

8 PM Service of Tenebrae

Livestream – use link on homepageThe story ... as light descends into darkness ...



Easter Sunday

Festive Celebration of Holy Communion 6:30 + 8:30 + 10:30 AM (NO Saturday worship)

Easter breakfast 7:30-8:30 AM

Surprise! New life in absolute abundance!



Come and join us...

Easter Breakfast!

7:30-8:30 AM

Coffee & Juice Sausages + Fruit Sweet rolls

A light breakfast as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and give thanks to God for the many gifts of life, including a simple meal, gathered together! Donation baskets to cover the expenses will be on each table.

We are looking for people to help with the breakfast. See the sign up on the table in the Gathering Area.

SCRIP CARDS AVAILABLE

Help support Our Savior's Sugar Creek Bible Camp Camperships and World Hunger! S'NAMO OW





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

Check out our new social media pages and keep up on what's going on, including livestreaming of worship ...







Facebook Page - Our Savior's ELCA - West Salem

Instagram Page - oursaviors_ws YouTube Channel (for livestream and recording of worship) - youtube.com/@techoslc

Check out the April newsletter www.oursaviorswestsalem.org) to find out more.