

Our Savior's Voice

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 Leonard Street N - West Salem, WI 54669

www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

608-786-0030

April 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

April 2023

Table of Contents

Pastor's Page	Pages 3-5
Holy Week & Easter Schedule	Pages 6-7
Worship Update	Page 8
April Hungry Jar	Page 9
Sunday School/First Communion	Pages 10-11
Easter Egg Hunt	Page 11
Confirmation	Pages 12-13
Sugar Creek Camperships	Page 14
College Scholarships	Page 15
College Connection	Page 15
Adult Bible Study	Page 16
Synod School of Theology	Page 16
New Members	Page 17
Senior Connections	Page 17
New Chalice & Patens	Page 18
Tech Project Update	Page 18
Community Health Resource Fair	Page 19
Pastoral Acts	Page 20
Cookbook	Page 20
Council Review	Page 21
Thank You	Page 22
Stoughton Norwegian Dancers	Page 23
WELCA Convention	Page 23
Financial Support Ministry	Page 24
By the Numbers	Page 25
Giving Opportunities	Pages 26-27
Worship Leaders Schedule	Pages 28-29
Looking Ahead	Page 30



Pastor's Reflections

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! ...

When you get this newsletter, we will be on the verge of Holy Week and Easter.

We start with Palm Sunday – processing with our palm branches, singing “Hosanna in the highest!”, hearing the story of the Passion of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Then we continue on our journey to the cross ... first stop Maundy Thursday when we hear of the servant, Jesus, washing the feet of his disciples and then celebrating their last supper together. We begin worship hearing words of forgiveness. We will celebrate with our 5th graders and their families as they partake in the Lord's Supper for the first time, using the cups they made in class, and sharing with the congregation the communion bread that they made. At the end of worship, we strip the altar bare in preparation for what is yet to come.

On Good Friday we find ourselves at the foot of the cross. We enter the stark sanctuary in dimmed light, and leave in silence and darkness ... Jesus has been crucified on the cross ... His body is now taken down, prepared for burial, and placed in the tomb, sealed with a stone.

But, Easter morning comes and we find the stone rolled away, the tomb is empty. Here in this place, we open the box that has been safely stored under the altar all this time, and we bring out the *Alleluias!* that have been buried these last 40 days. Our celebration begins as we boldly proclaim, “Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!” ... the trumpets resound as we raise our voices in song ... we hear

the Good News of Jesus' resurrection, and feast together at the Lord's table ... it is a joyous morning!

What a worship! I hope you are here to celebrate with us!

But, it isn't just during Holy Week and on Easter that we worship. Worship is a part of who we are at Our Savior's. That is why our 5th Guiding Principle says, "We value the gathering of God's people in worship and all our ministries."



As the people of God, we gather here in this place to worship. To experience worship that feeds us, renews us, and prepares us to go out into the world to be the hands and voice of Jesus, doing God's work, caring for his creation, caring for all of his people – young and old, strangers and neighbors alike. We welcome all who enter through our doors to worship with us. We celebrate and value the gifts and abilities of each person, no matter who you are, as we worship and as we carry out the various ministries within our walls and out in the world.

It takes each one of us to make worship happen, from the youngest to the oldest, we all have something to share ... we come with open minds and open hearts, we sing and pray, we share the peace and greet one another, we listen and respond, we share regular offerings and hungry jar offerings, we read lessons and prayer petitions, we assist with Holy Communion in worship and take communion to our homebound, we light candles and prepare the altar, we play instruments and sing in the choir, we bake bread and provide coffee fellowship, we lead worship ...

... and then ...



... we teach Sunday school and provide meals for our confirmation students, we make quilts and

prayer shawls, we serve our neighbors at the food pantry and at the corn roast, we are a presence in the community at June Dairy Days and National Night Out, we share of our gifts to so many ministries through our Mission Endowment Fund and Norwegian Dinner proceeds, we participate in Bible studies and WELCA circles, we create a time of fellowship during coffee hours and senior connection gatherings, we support the work of the ELCA and the LaCrosse Area Synod ...



What I'm trying to say is ... we are a people of God who gathers to worship and to do God's work with our hands (that work can be called "ministry"). Everyone is welcome and invited to be a part of worship and ministry ... at Easter and always!

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Celebrating worship ... and ministries ... and you,
Pastor Jean*



We continue to add to our guiding principles ...

1. Jesus is Lord and Savior.
2. All are welcome, and we are intentional about that welcome.
3. God gifts and calls every one of every age to be a difference maker in the world.
4. We treasure the gift of creation and embrace the call to protect God's world.
5. We value the gathering of God's people in worship and all our ministries.



Holy Week Worship Easter Worship

Palm Sunday

Saturday/6 PM & Sunday/8 + 10:30 AM

Holy Communion worship

Hearing the story of passion, sacrifice, and death ...

Maundy Thursday

7 PM Holy Communion with the

Stripping of the Altar as all is barren ...

Good Friday

1:30 PM Service of the Word

Pondering the Seven Last Words ...

8 PM Service of Tenebrae

The 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!



Worship Update

Saturday 6 PM

Sunday 8 & 10:30 AM

Remember... if you feel safer with a mask, we always welcome and encourage you to wear one!

**** Note that April 30 we may be at the Lion's Shelter for Affirmation of Baptism if it's warm enough.**

Meanwhile...

Virtual worship options
remain...



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

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

And soon ... livestreaming of the 10:30 worship. We hope to have the new tech work done sometime after Easter, with enhanced capabilities in the building, and a much-improved online experience as well.



Hungry Jar Offering for April Feed Our Children Summer Lunch Program

We are once again getting ready to serve lunch to the children in the community this summer. Our April Hungry Jar offerings will help support this ministry to feed the children nutritious meals.

Last year (with lots of community help and support), we fed around 175 kids twice a week. That's close to 4,000 meals over the summer!

Watch for more information as it gets closer to see how you, too, can be a part of this important ministry by sharing of your time and resources to help prepare and serve the lunches, and provide specific items that will be included in the meals.



Thank you for your generous donations to the Hungry Jar so far this year ...

- ♥ January – Our Savior's - LaCrosse Women's Clothes Closet - \$329.52
- ♥ February – Sleep in Heavenly Peace - \$762.51

Faith Formation ...



Sunday School is humming along as we have walked with Jesus to the foot of the cross during Lent, and we are about to find the tomb open and Jesus risen. We are also excited to sing out once again our “Alleluias” that have been buried these last 40 days.

The children have been practicing their songs for Easter and Mother’s Day and raising the roof doing so! They can’t wait to share them with the congregation!

Winter sports are over, but spring sports have begun. We look forward to seeing our children when they are not traveling to games.

Don’t forget your Sunday school offerings for Lutheran World Relief personal care kits!!

Important Dates

- Sunday, April 9 - Kids sing at 10:30 am worship
- Sunday, April 9 - Easter - No Sunday School classes
- Sunday, May 14 - Kids sing at 10:30 am worship
- Sunday, May 14 - Last day of Sunday School



The Mom's Group invites you ...

Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, April 2 at 10 AM
(During Sunday school)



The following 5th graders celebrated receiving their First Communion on Maundy Thursday:

Beau Baganz
Ryland Byom
Owen Draxler
Shiloh Gullickson
Laney Kneifl
Layla Kneifl
Lyriq Kumbier

Quinn Maki
Kirsten Rasmussen
Darrell Smith Jr
Sophia Sprehn
Amy Stefferud
Anna Vick
Camille Zarecki

Faith Formation ...



Confirmation Ministry

Confirmation ministry for 6th-9th graders is back on ... in force ... after Easter!

6th grade...

- Resume classes on Wednesdays at 6 PM, beginning April 12.

7th and 8th grade...

- Core class April 12, as we wrap up our study of the Ten Commandments.
- April 19 and 26 are electives, so make sure you check to see if you have an elective.

9th grade ...

- Meet on April 12 at 7 PM and then again on April 19.
- ... and then ... **Confirmation on April 30!**

Finally ... After-School resumes April 12. Come on over after school, have some time to unwind, relax, or even get a start on homework. Dinner provided and class follows – all in one neat package!

For more information on Confirmation ministry, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean.



Affirmation of Baptism

The Rite of Affirmation of Baptism, or “Confirmation” for our 9th graders will be Sunday, April 30, at 10:30 AM, at ... well, we’ll find out! ***If the weather permits (it’s warm enough) we will gather at the Lion’s Shelter***, where families can all be together. YOU are encouraged to join us as we ask God’s

blessings on these young people who seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus. Bring your own chair, come dressed for the outdoors – we will supply the rest!

But ... ***if it’s just a bit too cool ... we will meet in the building***. We’ll post on the website where we are, but if you’re not sure, bring a chair, dressed for outdoors, and come wherever we are – we won’t mind!

Why join us? Your support is an incredible gift of God, and is very important as we hear them affirm their baptismal promises, and as we become God’s voice affirming God’s promises to them. Don’t miss this opportunity to make a difference in their lives!

The following young people will be lifted up, blessed by God’s people, and sent forth in the power of God’s Holy Spirit:

Danielle Christianson
Baylee Faucett
Bennett Fennigkoh
Jaxson Hauser
Aidan Hillyer
Parker Hundt
Erin Jones
Lydia Jothen
Spencer Kammel

Tyson Labus
Dayne Langrehr
Autumn Loring
Olivia Maki
Hayden Massman
Nathan Premo
Breanna Smith
Emelia Tlustosch



SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP - 2023

To find more information about the summer schedule, check out the brochures on the kiosk in the Gathering Area or check out their website at:

<http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org/>

OUR SAVIOR'S CAMPERSHIPS AVAILABLE

\$300 full week -- \$125 half week

**Request forms due in the church office
NO LATER than May 11th**

(Forms available in the church office,
or on our website – www.oursaviorswestsalem.org)

Remember that camperships will be given to the campers in worship the weekend of May 20-21 and it is the responsibility of the family to get the checks to camp.



College Scholarships

A reminder that applications for college scholarships are due **Monday, May 1**. High School seniors who are members of Our Savior's are eligible for a one-time scholarship of between \$250 and \$750. Information has been sent to our seniors, or check online at: oursaviorswestsalem.org/youth-and-family.

A one-time scholarship is also available to Our Savior's members who are college freshmen and have been connected to a church or campus ministry, for the sophomore year. More information is also available on the website.

For more information, see Pastor Jon.

As our college students are studying in challenging



environments at home or on campus, we keep them in our thoughts and prayers. This month please pray for: ***Lexi Giblin, Olivia Haun, Sydney Hammes, Josh Iliff, and Alyna Kennedy.***

college+
connection

Adult Bible Study

Beat the mid-winter blues, explore some familiar (and not so familiar) stories, and have some great conversation – all in the Wednesday morning Bible study. We meet from 9:30-11 AM in the Library, or you can join us via Zoom. Each session is “stand-alone,” so you don’t miss if you ...miss! NO previous Bible knowledge is needed – just a healthy curiosity in what God is saying to us these days.



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



Synod School of Theology

The Synod School of Theology resumes April 13, at the Synod office in La Crosse. Classes are from 5:30-9:00 PM, and run for six weeks. Classes for this spring include:

- Leadership in Christian Community w/ Pr. Anna Sorenson
- Theology I w/ Pr. Chris Hallemeier

There is a small fee for classes, some reading and reflection, but no exams ... and no grades! Learn what you want, at your pace!

For more information see Dori Jensen (a member of the board) or go to lacrosseareasynod.org/school-of-theology.



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



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.



For more information on membership and how it can happen for you, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean!

New Chalice and Patens



Thanks to a generous gift from Dottie and Dennis Baumgartner, and some resources from the Memorial Fund, we have a new chalice and two new patens for use during Holy Communion. The new vessels will be used on Easter, and then blessed and dedicated the following Sunday. At the same time, we will give thanks to God for the older vessels which will be honorably retired after many years of faithful service.



Tech Project

It's been a long haul ... and a long wait ... but we are getting closer. The tech project for the sanctuary is awaiting one last piece (supply chain issues!) and then ... hopefully by mid-May ... we will be set. Thank you for your patience as we improve our resources for worship and community!



Community Health Resource Fair

Sponsored by Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers

**Thursday, April 13
1-4 PM**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

- Covid vaccines available!
- Health screenings and community health resources
- Walk on – NO appointment necessary
- Light refreshments

Scenic Bluffs
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS



*Can't make this date?
Another resource fair
will be held on
Monday, May 15,
3:30-6:00 PM, Sparta
Hockey Rink.*



Pastoral Acts:

Funeral – Doris Yeske – March 3

Funeral – Valgean Anderson – March 29

Funeral – Marilyn Romskog – March 31

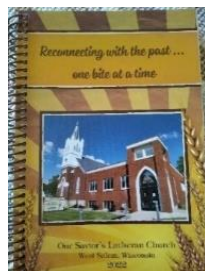
Baptism – Emersyn Plenge – March 5

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.



Congregation Council

The Congregation Council met on Monday, March 20, with President Jeff Haldeman presiding. At this meeting the council:

- Shared devotions based on several scripture readings focused on welcoming others.
- Approved the minutes of the February Council Meeting, and received the February financial report.
- Heard a report from the pastors on ministries over the past month, and a report on activities across the synod.
- Heard updates on the Holy Week/Easter schedule, including an Easter breakfast between the two earlier services.
- Heard plans for a health clinic on April 13, and the upcoming audit.
- Received an update on potential new members.
- Heard about ministries needing to be refreshed, including Senior Ministries and Youth Ministry. Decided to add worship as an ongoing agenda item in order to receive reports from the worship planning team.
- Appointed Dean Olson, Jen Linse, Kyle Twite, Eric Ender, and Linda Berg to a Musical Instrument Task Force.
- Discussed forming a group to examine signage in the building and recommend changes and improvements.
- Authorized purchase of wall mounted hand sanitizers for the three entrances to the building.
- Decided to move the April council meeting to the third Monday due to the date of Easter.

The next meeting of the council will be held Monday, April 17 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 March newsletter mailing crew:
Bev Bockenbauer, Carol Thompson, and
Marion Twite Stensven



WELCA Synod Convention

Saturday, April 29

@ Blair Lutheran

Cost \$20

Registration - 8 am

Worship - 9 am

Closing - 3:30 pm

Coming to West Salem...

***Stoughton
Norwegian
Dancers!***

**Sunday, April 30
1 PM**

***West Salem Middle
School***



The Stoughton Norwegian Dancers, comprised of high school students from Stoughton, will share a selection of Norwegian folk dances at the Middle School gym. Proceeds from the presentation will support the renovation and restoration of the Palmer-Gullickson Octagon house across from Our Savior's.

Tickets are \$10/adults and \$5/students – available from Le Coulee Cheese and Hansen's IGA, or from historical society members on Saturday/Sundays after worship.

If you are Norwegian, this is a must! And if you are not Norwegian, be one for a day!



**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 camperships for kids attending Sugar Creek. Kids have fun, make enduring friendships, but most of all, learn about God's love for them through Jesus Christ. Our camperships make it possible for kids – many times more than one from a family – to discover what Jesus is for them. Just another way your financial support makes a difference!

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...

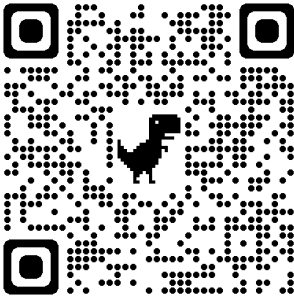


Ministry is not a numbers game, but numbers can help us get a feel for what is happening as we carry out our part of God's work in the world! Numbers help us

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-Feb	Actual-YTD	Budget-YTD
Income	\$21,358.86	\$46,610.14	\$60,237.5
Prepaid		\$13,362.00	\$13,362.00
Expense	\$32,723.54	\$63,393.35	\$63,518.52
Net	(\$11,364.68)	(\$3,421.21)	
2023 Worship Life – Weekly average			
	In-building Actual	Online Estimate	TOTAL
February	155	104	259
Year to Date	140	88	228

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!

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

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.



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!



Council Meeting Date

Please note a change in schedule – due to Easter, the April Congregation Council meeting will be held on Monday, April 17, at 7 PM.

Worship Leaders



April 1-2

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Noah Johnsrude
Bonnie Gensch
Dennis & Ann Sprain

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Tula Mitchell
Eric Iliff
D&K Anderson

10:30 a.m.

Jaxen Quackenbush
Wendy Amundson
Baumgartner/Hehl

Home Communion

Bev Bockenbauer

April 6 - MAUNDY THURSDAY - 7 p.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Graham Sjoquist
Stacey Sjoquist
Judy & Phil Gilbert

April 7 - GOOD FRIDAY

1:30 p.m.

Worship Assistant

8 p.m.

Worship Assistant
Welcoming Team

Brooke Rasmussen
Jeff & Melissa Haldeman

April 9 - EASTER

6:30 a.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Nate Stefferud
Denise Jones
Tim & Denise Jones

8:30 a.m.

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Lily Twite
Burkhart/Karl
Goodenough

10:30 a.m.

Landon Weiland
Fortier/J Iliff
Iliff

April 15-16

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

6 p.m.
Alicia Zarecki
Jon Hetland
Zarecki Family

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

8 a.m. **10:30 a.m.**
Isaac Arentz Henry Bakkum
Kim Arentz Melissa Haldeman
Jim Michelson P&T Beckley

Home Communion

Phil & Judy Gilbert

April 22-23

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

6 p.m.
Jesse Jothen
Judy Gilbert
Jothen Family

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

8 a.m. **10:30 a.m.**
G Johnsrude A Clements
Bonny Goodenough Michelle Witte
Mitchell Family Fortier Family

Home Communion

Pam Gresens

April 29-30

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

6 p.m.

Jon Hetland
Jon & Maryrose Hetland

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

8 a.m. **10:30 a.m.**
Anna Gross Candace Drury
Alison Hemker Tracy Hesse
Steve & Sue Ahles Drury Family

Home Communion

Carolyn Karl

Altar Guild for April

Jill Iliff

Looking ahead...



Mark Your Calendar

Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Dione Stepanek

Assistant to Bishop Felix Malpica, Pastor Dione Stepanek, will join us for worship on Saturday/Sunday, May 6/7, and will share the message. Pastor Stepanek is also looking forward to some time to chat and connect with us as she learns more about Our Savior's and West Salem. We thank Pastor Stepanek and look forward to connecting with her!

High School Graduate Recognition

We will celebrate our high school graduates in worship on Sunday, May 21st during the 10:30 AM service. Join us as we recognize their accomplishments.



Synod Assembly Worship ...

The LaCrosse Area Synod will gather on Sunday, June 11 in Riverside Park to worship together as a Synod ... and you are invited! Watch for details!

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

Pastor Jonathan Schmidt, Senior Pastor 612-0217

Email: pastorjon@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Pastor Jean Schmidt, Associate Pastor 612-0217

Email: pastorjean@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Kris Seeger, Administrative Assistant Church Office: 786-0030

Email: office@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Rachel Holthaus, Director of Youth Ministry (405) 474-7201

Email: youth@oursaviorswestsalem.org

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 –
April 14**

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