

Our Savior's Voice

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 Leonard Street N - West Salem, WI 54669

www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

608-786-0030

May 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

May 2023

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Pastor's Reflections

Changes ...

News flash! The world has changed! Really? You think? After Covid, and economic uncertainties, with technology changing daily, and the world getting smaller by the minute. And how about that weather? Close to home ... around the world, stuff we just haven't seen before. Yes indeed, the times, they are a-changin'!

And then ... changes right here in the church. Familiar faces no longer here, ministries not always working like they used to, Sunday School and Confirmation smaller, and the budget stressed.

To be sure, some of the changes are, well, pretty good. Lots of new faces in worship, families with kids. That's a good change! But still, where once you could sort of depend on some things remaining the same, now a days – is anything reliable?

Now, to be fair, things have always been changing? Someone my age, born 100 years earlier, would have seen the settlement of the American West, automobiles, telephones, airplanes, radios, and drastic changes in fashion. All in measly 60+ years. Yes, the times ... they've always been a-changin'.

So then, what's one to do? If things are changing, always,



and we can't rely on any kind of stability, what hope do we have? How can the church possibly move ahead if we don't know what's coming next, and when it's going to come?



Easy! BE the church. No, I don't mean to just be open for business, run our programs, and hope for the best. Instead, be what we are called to be – a community of the faithful, grounded in God's faithfulness.

OK, what does that mean? We just finished remembering God's work in Jesus in Holy Week and Easter. Part of the story was the prep work that Jesus did in John 14. As he and his disciples gathered for the "Last Supper," Jesus made a promise – even though he was about to leave them (they didn't quite catch on at the time), he was NOT going to abandon them. His absence would be filled by what he called "the Paraclete." Better known as the Holy Spirit!

Jesus promised that as the disciples, and by extension the church ... and you and I ... move forward, the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit goes with us. And not just along for the ride. The Paraclete, the Holy Spirit is out to make things happen! To guide, nudge, and occasionally shove us along in the right direction. Even when things are changing all around us.



And that's where our hope is. We do live in a constantly changing world.

Some of the changes we can see coming – we can prepare, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can adapt to what's happening so that we may continue to be faithful in our discipleship.

Other changes – like Covid – aren't as easy to see coming. We may need to pivot quickly and change, sometimes not really knowing where we are headed. Scary, but in the hands of the Spirit ... let it rip!

And still other changes, seen or unseen, are simply changes we don't want to make – for whatever reason – yet changes we need to make. And then too, the Spirit takes hold and gives us the boldness to, as Captain Kirk from Star Trek would say, “go where no one (or least where WE) have never gone before!”

All of which brings me to the point. We have been exploring the new “guiding principles” which we adopted. The first principle is first for a reason – it is the starting point of all that we do.



Jesus is Lord and Savior.

Kind of a “no-duh” starter. If Jesus isn't “Lord and Savior,” then just what are we doing?

But then we move on to how we seek to be a community of faith. What are the values that we cherish? And how do we live out those values?

All are welcome, and we are intentional about that welcome.

Hey, it's not our church – it's God's – so how can we not work really hard to welcome all of God's people?

God gifts and calls every one of every age to be a difference maker in the world.

All of us – young and old – are gifted to make a difference for Jesus, not just in church, but especially out there, in the world, every day.

We treasure the gift of creation and embrace the call to protect God's world.

The world around us isn't just our playground, it's an awesome gift, and our responsibility to cherish, treasure and protect.

We value the gathering of God’s people in worship and all our ministries.

It’s not just me and God – you and me, all of us, as the body of Christ, called together in worship, community and ministry to be God’s work in the world!

But in a world that is changing I can’t ... and we can’t ... do this on our own. We try (sometimes) and fail (often). We value our values, and we seek to be faithful. But in the swirl of a changing world, we need more. We need the promised gift of the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit. And so ... the last “guiding principle” ...

We seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in a world that has changed dramatically.

Good news! God delivers! We move forward as this congregation has done for over 165 years, and as disciples of Jesus have done for close to 2000 years – into an “uncertainly changing world” with confidence not in our planning, hard work, or even foresight. Instead, we move forward because the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit is with us. And the promise is fulfilled!



I do not know all that the future holds. I do know that if nothing else, the future holds “change,” and lots of it. But I also know that the Paraclete is still hanging around these parts, that the Holy Spirit is at work in us as disciples and us as a community of faith.

And so, let the world change (can’t stop it anyway!). Makes no difference. The Spirit is loose!

Pastor Jon



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!

Beginning Sunday, May 28
10:30 AM worship
moves to 10 AM!!

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 in May, with enhanced capabilities in the building, and a much-improved online experience as well.

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!



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!



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!

But before we get there ...

WE ARE COLLECTING

SOCKS & UNDERWEAR

FOR THE ASSEMBLY OFFERING

**TO DISTRIBUTE TO LOCAL
FOOD PANTRIES & CLOTHING CLOSETS**



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

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

Faith Formation ...



As I write these words, it's hard to believe we only have a couple more weeks of Sunday School – the year has flown by! It was so much fun to have our kids together in class this year, to hear their laughter, see their smiles, and watch their eyes as they heard about God's love and shared it with each other.

Our teachers and helpers were **awesome** – always flexible and willing to do whatever it took – sharing their witness of faith and love of Jesus!! They are truly a gift to this congregation and especially to our children!! If you see them around, reach out and thank them!!

Teachers: Erin Hebrink, Amanda Vick, Lindsey Gilberts, Stacey Sjoquist, Mariette Stefferud, and Eric Iliff

Helpers and Subs: Brenda Skittone, Abbey Vick, Jen Evenson, Jessa Hickey

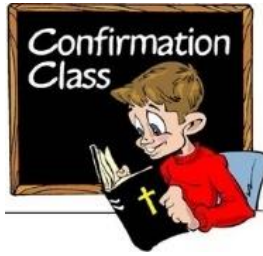
Music: Naoko Giblin, Linda Berg, Laurie Noelke

May 14th will be our last day of Sunday School and we will celebrate with treats and music. The kids will be singing in worship at 10:30.



Sunday, May 14 - Kids sing at 10:30 am worship
Sunday, May 14 - Last day of Sunday School

Faith Formation ...



Confirmation Ministry

Confirmation ministry is in the final stretch!

6th grade...

- Classes continue on Wednesdays at 6 PM, with their last class on May 17.

7th and 8th grade... **TAKE NOTE!! SCHEDULE CHANGES!**

- NO CLASS May 3
- 7th AND 8th graders meet on May 10
- Elective scheduled for May 17 **MOVED TO** May 24 at 6 PM

After School ...

- Continues on May 3 and 17
- NO After School on May 10 due to early release ... but there IS class that day!

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

High School Graduate Recognition

High school graduate recognition is set for Sunday, May 21, at the 10:30 worship service. We will honor our graduates, ask God's blessings upon them, celebrate their achievements, and announce scholarship recipients.



Students should join us around 10 AM in the lower level, and bring your robe if you have it. An RSVP to the office is always helpful, but not necessary. And bring your parents!



High School Disciples ... *are you one?*

Wednesday, May 24 + 6 PM
Pizza and a few more goodies!

All high school kids are invited to join Rachel Holthaus in exploring what it means to be a high school student and a disciple of Jesus at the same time. Over pizza and other goodies, we'll chat about life and faith ... where God is calling us to be. You game? Come and join us!

For more information see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean, or connect with Rachel.



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.



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.

Hungry Jar Offering for May Sugar Creek Bible Camp Camperships

"A sacred place for you"



Sugar Creek helps young people to be grounded in a Christ-centered, safe, and fun environment. It is a place for them to grow, and reinforces the importance of staying connected in our churches. It is a place where children can see role models in the college-aged staff who love Jesus and can excite them to a life of faith. At Sugar Creek youth are encouraged to make good choices, to share the love, joy and hope that a life of faith brings.

More than once we have heard what a difference Sugar Creek has made in the life of a young person!!

It costs almost \$800 to send a child to camp for a week. Our Savior's is committed to providing Camperships to help with the cost. 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 ...

♥ March – Lutheran World Relief –
Disaster Response Fund – Earthquake in
Syria/Turkey - \$268.16

Adult Bible Study

Spring has sprung ... Jesus is risen ... and we are exploring the coming Sunday's gospel reading. Come and join us as we dive into the story a bit deeper, and gain new perspectives on just what God is up to in our world. All part of 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.



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



Feed Our Children Summer Lunch Program

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

If you are interested in volunteering, you can contact Angie Hemker (hemker.angie@wsalem.k12.wi.us) or check the Feed Our Children Summer Lunch Program page on Facebook. There will be a sign-up sheet available soon!

Keep watching for more details and for ways you can support this important ministry.



JUNE DAIRY DAYS

Summer is coming and will kick off with June Dairy Days on **June 2, 3, and 4!** Please save the dates and plan to participate in one or all of the following ways:

1. The **Fun Run** will be held Saturday, June 3.
 - a. **Volunteers** are needed to help with registration, set-up, and serving as crossing guards from 6:30 - 9:30 AM on Saturday morning.
 - b. **Runners/walkers** are also needed! Online registration is open at <https://www.junedairydays.com/> under Events.
2. The **Food Stand** needs **lots** of folks helping out, so please answer the call to sign up for duties at the Village Park all weekend - we need grillers, servers, ticket workers, window workers, and shift leaders. Youth and their families are especially encouraged to help on all shifts. Signup sheets are available online** at <https://signup.com/go/cFLXkjg> as well as at church.



THANK YOU for being an important part of our fun traditions in June!

**In order to indicate you're with our group, please add "OSLC" after your name so we know which folks are coming from our church. [If you are a family signing up for several spots on the same shift but don't have separate emails, you can add a comment with the family member's name.]

ALSO: Check out the SOS Band playing at the Gazebo on Sunday morning – watch for details about time!!





Thank you ...

to the April newsletter mailing crew:
Larry & Connie Blunck, Bev Bockenbauer,
Carolyn Karl, Judy Morzinski, and Carol
Thompson.



Pastoral Acts:

Funeral – Jeff Stellick – April 15

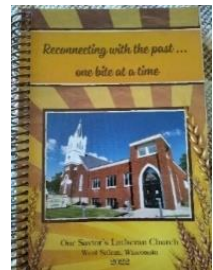
Funeral – Mary Kokott – April 18

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, April 17, with President Jeff Haldeman presiding. At this meeting the council:

- Shared devotions based on Ephesians 4:7-13, reflecting on the gifts we see in others, and in ourselves.
- Approved the minutes of the March Council Meeting, and received the March financial report.
- Heard a report from the pastors on ministries over the past month, including worship trends, and a report on activities across the synod.
- Heard that the Audit Committee is continuing its work and will submit a report upon completion.
- Discussed some possibilities for worship, including the use of dramas in worship.
- Discussed visitors and new members, and ways to engage new people in the life of the congregation.
- Received Jane Brenengan Rienl as a member via transfer from Good Shepherd/La Crosse; restored membership of Rita Golnick; approved the 2023 confirmands as voting members.
- Received a report from the Property Committee detailing building needs, including roof, parking lot, tuck pointing, exterior lighting, and ceiling tiles. Discussed a process for evaluating the needs and how to move forward. Decided to devote the May meeting to these needs.
- Heard that Rich Westphal, Jane Henricks, and Karly Baganz, will work with Jaime Fortier on the Signage Task Force.
- Noted that several issues will need to be addressed in coming months, including stronger support for youth ministry.

The next meeting of the council will be held Monday, May 8 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.

In Loving Memory



Memorial Gifts Received ...

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

Herb & Shari Aleckson
Verve Credit Union
Margaret Husman
Braun Intertec
Jim & Judy Kidd & Family
Bea & David Halvorson
Peter & Kim Arentz
Jac Lyga
Helen Friell
Chris & Cathy Hartley
G & M Hess
Elizabeth Schomburg
Carolyn & Richard Bryant
Ken & Naomi Williams
Friends of WS/Bangor Wrestling

Larry & Connie Blunck
DuraTech
Stephanie Creed
Alan & Karen Rolandi
Altra Federal Credit Union
Ron & Lois Johnson
Ryan & Julie Tenner
Barry & Monika Loding
Barb Schomburg
Carol & Marvin Colbenson
Michael & Stephanie Greene
Mary & Sean Gavaghan
Penny & Steven Anderson
Roy Fonstad
Family & Friends

In Memory of Marilyn Romskog from ...

Judy Long
Ellen & Jerry Allen
Joe & Carol Stekel
Ilene Pavelko
Sylvester & Marcella Marking
Michael & Stephanie Greene
Joseph Zietlow
Dean & Jean Piper
James & Lynda Everson
Kwik Trip, Inc.

Larry & Connie Blunck
Wayne & Darlene Affeldt
Dawn Affeldt
Jim Romskog
Leora Hurst
Barbara Hoffman
Vivan Sacia
Sharon Sprain
Dale & Diane Piper
Alan & Karen Rolandi

In Memory of Marilyn Romskog for Choir from

Herb & Shari Aleckson

Dennis & Ann Sprain



**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 gifts to fight world hunger. Gifts that feed those in need, but also help them to develop sustainable farming and other good practices. Gifts that allow them to start businesses, develop trades, and market their crafts. Gifts that protect water and land, so that a harvest may be gathered, and lives sustained. Yes, we do make 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.oursaviorswestsaalem.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-March | Actual-YTD | Budget-YTD |
| Income | \$26,795.88 | \$73,406.02 | \$90,356.25 |
| Prepaid | | \$13,362.00 | \$13,362.00 |
| Expense | \$32,008.24 | \$95,401.59 | \$95,277.78 |
| Net | (\$5,212.36) | (\$8,633.57) | |
| | | | |
| 2023 Worship Life – Weekly average | | | |
| | In-building Actual | Online Estimate | TOTAL |
| March | 148 | 65 | 213 |
| Year to Date | 142 | 81 | 223 |

Worship Leaders



May 6-7

6 p.m.
Will Byom
Marjorie Anderson
Bell Family

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

8 a.m.
Campbell Laack
Dori Jensen
Hickey Family

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

10:30 a.m.
Landon Labus
Jen Linse
Janisch Family

Home Communion
Altar Guild for May

Ilene Pavelko
Stacey Sjoquist / Tracy Skrentny

May 13-14

6 p.m.
Leah Langrehr
Jill Iliff
Vick Family

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

8 a.m.
Casey Mathison
Lynette Ender
Hundt Family

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

10:30 a.m.
Lilly Muellenberg
Jeff Haldeman
A&J Kennedy

Home Communion

Rasmussen Family

May 20-21

6 p.m.
Mya Peterson
Kim Arentz
Keith & Jan Goetzinger

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

8 a.m.
Madison Phillips
Steve Ahles
K&K Wehrs

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

10:30 a.m.
E Quackenbush
Carolyn Karl
Sjoquist Family

Home Communion

Carol & Scott Thompson

May 27-28

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

6 p.m.
Anya Tenner
Lynette Ender
Eric & Barb Sorenson

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

Home Communion

8 a.m.
Anna Witte
Brenda Skittone
Dan & Jan Wee

Daryl Wermedal

****10 a.m.****
Will Clements
Rich Clements
Hesse Family



Check out our new...



QR Code!

To be found in the Sunday bulletin ...and here in the newsletter... the QR code takes you to our online giving page. You can set up electronic gifts to support the work we share in the gospel of Jesus Christ! Direct payment or credit

cards, one time or recurring, the general fund ... or summer lunch ... or world hunger ... or youth fund. Your gifts and regular support make a difference, and the QR Code makes it easy to find!

Direct your
Thrivent Choice
Dollars
Today!



Thrivent Choice Dollars

Remember that if you are a Thrivent member you may have “Thrivent Choice Dollars” to direct. Our Savior’s is one of the many potential recipients of your choice dollars, but your direction needs to be made each time. A number of Our Savior’s folk direct their choice dollars – do you? See Thrivent’s web site for more information or stop by the office and we will help you out.

Scrip Cards Available

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

KWIK TRIP



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

WOODMAN'S



**Feeding the
Community**

Care and Share Food Pantry

The Care and Share Food Pantry is open Saturdays, 10 AM to Noon. Food can be dropped off during office hours. Thank you!

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

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Email: rachel.holthaus10.3@gmail.com

Jill Iliff, Treasurer

Email: treasurer@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Linda Berg, Organist/Choir Accompanist/Director of Music

Email: linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Laurie Noelke, Handbell Choir Director/Assistant Worship Musician

Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director

Karen DeSchepper, Financial Secretary

Josh Corning, Custodian



**Newsletter Deadline –
May 15**

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

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

Change Service Requested