

Welcome to August in the life of your church. For many of us, it is our last month of summer activities. Next month, begins busy activities here at church, as well as many scheduled school and sports engagements for your families.

I checked my calendar for this month and I offer some pondering on my schedule.

-August 7th - I will be hosting a Synod-wide golf outing In Iola, Wisconsin. Clergy and lay people from many of our ELCA congregations will gather for a fun-filled day of fellowship, exasperation, and giving thanks for our “oneness.” Although we come from different congregations, we all share in the mission of the ELCA – Inclusiveness/Welcoming/Loving Neighbors/One In Christ. I always give thanks that we are a part of the ELCA. I hope you do as well.

-August 14th – I will be the Master of Ceremonies at an event called “Fox Cities Senior Games” at Riverside Park here in Neenah. It is a gathering where 150-200 senior citizens come together for fellowship, laughter, and giving thanks. As I engage with this group, I always ask God to touch my heart and remember their contributions to their communities and the life of the church; in particular, their history of commitment and the wisdom they continue to offer. Again, I hope you do as well.

For 20 years, my partner as Master of Ceremonies at this event was Pastor Martin Ruge. Since his stroke, he has been unable to participate. I miss him always. He, and his wife Lola, reside at Lakeshore Manor in Oshkosh. (711 Bay Shore Drive, Oshkosh, WI. 54901). Send him a note if he has touched your life in some way.

-Later in this month, Cathy and I will leave for a vacation and experience the beauty of God’s creation. We will visit the New England area and the area of my former congregations in upstate New York. For us, this is a shining example of viewing God’s handiwork in all of its splendor. We always marvel at the beauty of creation. When you travel, I hope you do as well.

As always, I give thanks that God has called me to be your Interim Pastor. Here at Our Savior’s, great things are happening.

God Bless you and your loved ones,

Interim Pastor Dennis E. Ellisen

Confirmation News

Grade 6, 7 & 8 Confirmation Parent/Student Meeting

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending the Confirmation meeting on Wednesday, September 12 at 5:30 p.m.

Confirmation Teacher Meeting

Returning teachers, helpers and those interested in joining our Confirmation team should plan to attend this meeting on Wednesday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Grade 9 Confirmation Day Info

Rehearsal for Confirmation is Sunday, October 21, from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m.

Confirmation Day is Sunday, October 28, at the 10:30 worship service.

Mission Accomplished!

Our Milwaukee Mission group served at five sites in three days: Next Door Foundation - we read to preschoolers during library time and then worked in the book room; St. Ben's Community meal - we served 378 guests in two hours; Hope House Food Pantry - we helped guests with grocery shopping and restocked shelves; The Guest House - we played board games with residents then prepared and served a meal; The Gathering - we served breakfast to 138 guests in an hour. We also got to spend a couple of hours at the Milwaukee County Zoo and marveled at God's creation.

Sunday School News

Sunday school begins on September 16, at 9:15 a.m. In preparation for a smooth start to Sunday school I am looking for teachers and a Christmas program director. I have a five week schedule set up for teachers. If you are willing to volunteer your time and talents for either teaching or directing, please contact me at rmelzer@our-saviors.org. The time commitment can be five weeks, every other week, or whatever you decide to make it easy for you to be a Sunday school teacher.

We will have a Sunday school meeting for all parents in August - with food, of course. We haven't picked a date yet, but I will email everyone when I know what it is.

God's Peace and Thank You,
Ruthie Melzer

Church Nursery

Would you like your child or children to be able to spend time in our Nursery during the 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship service? We are looking for volunteers to staff the Nursery every Sunday. Therefore, I am looking for those who like children and have the time to spend with the little ones.

A clip board will be passed around at the beginning of worship services, so you can sign up for a Sunday that works for you to help in the nursery. It would be great if we could fill all the spots available. Who can sign up? Good question to ask. If you are in confirmation, a student in middle or high school, or you are an adult and you love children, you are eligible to sign up to help out. You can commit to one Sunday or many Sundays - it is up to you. The goal is to have a person or people scheduled to watch the children in the nursery from September 16, 2018 to May 5, 2019.

Please prayerfully consider volunteering for such an important position then sign up, or contact Ruthie at rmelzer@our-saviors.org.

“God’s Work. Our Hands” - Yes, YOU can make a difference! Here are some opportunities to share God’s love in our community.

Supporting Our Missions

Reserve Your Spot Now - Guatemala Mission Trip 2019 March 23-31, 2019

Whether you want to find out more, or are ready to sign up, plan on attending our first informational and planning meeting.

*Wednesday August 15, 2019
6 pm at church*

We plan on building two homes for deserving families and have accommodations for another 11 participants. Children age 14 and up may come on the trip if accompanied by their parent/guardian. Trip leaders are Rich & Pam Garman and Marcie Kimmes.

We would like to have the trip filled by the end of August so we can start raising funds to help offset the out-of-pocket cost. How do you reserve your spot? Complete & return a registration form along with a \$100 non-refundable deposit. Checks made payable to: Our Savior’s Lutheran Church

Just a reminder that it is a busy and physically demanding trip, but one you will forever remember. A chance to change lives one person at a time! Contact Pam or Rich Garman at pam-garman2@gmail.com, 920-915-2272 or Marcie Kimmes at mkimmes@our-saviors.org, 920-725-3956 if you have questions.

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.” Day

Are you ready to get your SERVE on? Join other OSLC members on Sunday, Sept. 9 as we go out to give a helping hand throughout our community.

Do you have an idea for a service project? Are you interested in helping to plan the day? Maybe you would like to be a project leader? If so, contact Marcie Kimmes or Ruth Melzer at 725-3956.

Here are a few details...

- ✦ We are busy putting together several “SERVE” sites for people of *all ages*
- ✦ Each project site will have a group leader.
- ✦ In late August, you’ll be able to sign-up – either on the SERVE board in the gathering area OR online.

T-shirts will be available again this year for those who sign up in advance.

Youth Coordinator Position Opening

Our Youth Coordinator, Karen Whitmer, is leaving her position with OSLC to pursue a new job in her field of marketing. We give thanks for Karen’s two years of youth ministry and wish her the best. May God bless her as she begins this new opportunity. You’ll still see Karen and her family in worship.

We are looking for someone to take on the position of Youth Coordinator. This is a 15 hour a week paid position with some time off in the summer. The Youth Coordinator oversees our Youth and Confirmation programs. If you are interested in learning more or would like to apply, please contact Pastor Dennis Ellisen.

Meals Needed at Youth Go

Youth Go is a no-cost, drop-in center located on the border of Neenah and Menasha that provides youth in grades 5-12 with a safe, supportive place to spend their time after school and in the evenings. They provide the at-risk and underserved youth in this community with a place where they can belong. They are asking for help in providing dinner for 20-30 youth on Fridays while they renovate their kitchen space. Dates are 8/3, 8/10, 8/17, 8/24, 8/31, 9/7, 9/14 and 9/24. If you are willing and able to help, please contact Youth Go’s executive director, Kelly Hicks, at kelly@youthgo.org or 920-722-1435.

Men's Breakfasts

The men's Bible study meets on the second and fourth Saturday of every month. We meet at 8:00 a.m. in the meeting room of Perkins Restaurant across from Wal-Mart. This month we meet on August 11 and 25. Come and join us. All men welcome.

OSLC Mission Quilters

Come see how much fun we have! This month we meet in the church gym on:

August 2, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

August 16, 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Women's Book Club

The book club at OSLC welcomes you to join our friendly group of 10 to 12 women. We generally meet at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the church library. This month we meet on August 28. Come join us!

Are You a Thrivent Member?

If you are, we'd love to know! There are opportunities for you to help the church through the Action Team initiative and Choice Dollars program. Please contact Marcie Kimmes at mkimmes@our-saviors.org or call 725-3956.

School Supply Round Up!

Summer is still in full swing, but school supplies are already arriving in our local stores. How about picking up a few items for Lutheran World Relief? Our congregation will send off school kits this fall to help children and families all over the world. Your contributions are much appreciated! Please drop off your donations in the closet directly across from the church's main office.

If you prefer, you can donate by writing a check and we'll do the shopping for you. Please designate checks to Our Savior's Lutheran Church and mark them for "LWR Kits." Checks can be dropped off at the church office or placed in the weekend offering plates. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

SCHOOL KITS CONTENTS

8.5 x 11" notebooks of lined paper – we need many of these!
Rulers with inch and centimeter markings
Crayons - 24 per box
Children's scissors – blunt tip
Small pencil sharpeners
Ballpoint pens, blue or black ink (new, not used)
Pink erasers, 2 ½" long

OTHER ITEMS NEEDED (for Baby and Health Kits)

Adult-sized, new toothbrushes
Large, sturdy combs
Metal nail clippers
4 to 5 oz bars of soap, any brand
New cloth diapers – flat fold or prefold
Bath towels and hand towels, dark colors preferred

Blessing of the Back Packs

September is coming! It is a time when children go back to school, confirmation begins, Sunday school starts up and worship services, on Sunday, go back to 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. I think of this as a renewed beginning for schools, churches, and families.

Please join us on August 25 at 5:00 p.m. or August 26 at 9:00 a.m. to start the year renewed and blessed. "Blessing of the Back Packs" is for everyone, so bring your brief case, purse, and lunch box - whatever you carry to a job or to school to have it blessed. There is no better way to have a renewed start than to begin with prayer.

Fox Valley Lutheran Homes News

Our Fall Fund Raiser, **VACATION – SPORTS – QUILT AUCTION** will take place on Sunday, October 14, 2018, at the Riverview Gardens, 1101 S. Oneida St., Appleton. There will be a live auction at 2:00 P.M. featuring vacations from around the state and beyond, sports tickets and sport opportunities around the state, and beautiful quilts to purchase! All the items available for purchase will be available to view on our website approximately one month ahead of time, as well as an hour ahead of time on the day of the auction. Watch for information on Facebook and on our website. Mark your calendars now, for an enjoyable Sunday afternoon.

We have two vacancies at Linwood Place Apartments, a 2 bedroom and a 1 bedroom apartment. Call Becky at 734-7225 to make an appointment to see either or both apartments.

Volunteers are always welcome and most assuredly appreciated. If you like to visit with people, work in the yard, help with property projects, help in the kitchen, bake once in a while, drive people to appointments, play games, we could use your help! Just call and ask for Becky, Katie, or Cheryl. We'll find the perfect spot for you to make a difference at Fox Valley Lutheran Homes.

*Becky Luett, Deacon
Executive Director*

2018 Houston Youth Gathering

The 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering concluded on July 1 after 30,000 youth and adult leaders (including 12 of our own) came together for five days in Houston.

Our group was led by chaperones Cary Myska, Stacey Kreuter and Ben Paulson. Addie Fredrickson, Grace Hagner, Sophia Schmidt, Maya Schmidt, Wyatt Paulson, Marissa Myska, Cammi Kreuter, Lauren Wilharm and Adrianna Radig traveled to the event, which included exciting worship, interactive learning, meaningful service projects and fun-filled fellowship.

"The trip was an amazing experience," according to Addie Fredrickson. "We had the opportunity to hear inspirational speakers and to meet people from around the world. When I look back on this trip when I am older, I will remember the evenings in the stadium with thousands of people."

Lauren Wilharm agreed that a highlight of the trip was the mass gatherings and worship services. "I enjoyed all the speakers and the energy inside the arena, especially the singing. I will always remember the wave of (phone) lights at the last mass gathering."

Thanks to the congregation for all of the support, financial assistance and prayers that allowed our youth and adult leaders to have this unforgettable experience. The group will be sharing more of their photos and memories in the next few weeks.

A Message from the Music Team

Music is a gift from God. It helps us learn His Word and recall His promises. It helps us give witness to our family and friends about what God has done. Music transports us back in time, binding us together as few other things can. Singing together in worship is not about talent. It is not about perfect or even beautiful voices. It's about coming together to worship God. Our worship services here at Our Savior's provide a variety of music through hymn singing, liturgy, and choirs. If you have any great ideas that would enhance our worship experience and want your voice heard, please contact Roberta Golden or Ardy Kreuter, your music representatives on the Worship Team.

Choir rehearsals begin in September: Joyous Ringers Handbell Choir on September 5, at 5:30 p.m., Chancel Choir, September 5, at 7:00 p.m., and Joyful Noise Praise Choir, September 16, at 9:15 a.m. We look forward to having you join us in September. More opportunities for sharing musical talent to follow. Stay tuned.

A BIG thank you to Ann Moe for painting the message on our wall in the music room. We all can 'make a joyful noise unto the Lord!' Come down and check out Ann's work! More music room improvements are coming soon.

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ~ Matthew 5:16

Generous People...

Back Pack Sunday

Would you like to help someone out but don't know how? Here is a good cause for you to consider.

Since not all students have backpacks, we are asking you to consider purchasing an extra backpack, or contribute money for one, before or on August 19, so that all students who come for the blessing will have a backpack. Remaining backpacks will be delivered to schools that can distribute them.

Please bring your donations to the church office or make your financial contribution, labeled "backpacks," and place it in the offering plate at worship.

Thank you!

Generous Congregation...

Unified Budget YTD Through June

	Budgeted	Actual
Income	\$181,666.67	\$206,997.75
Expenses	<u>\$181,607.38</u>	<u>\$226,317.18</u>
	\$ 59.29	(\$ 19,319.43)

Generosity is...

...a way to give back to God. It is a way to invest in God's ministry and God's people. Generosity is sharing God's grace. Grace comes to us freely, without limits and without warrant. When we are generous, we are extending God's grace, giving freely without limits and without warrant.

Building Fund...

Through June

Remaining on Loan	\$415,505.77
Principal Paid on Loan	\$ 76,076.61
Total Contributions	\$102,494.12
Billed on Loan	\$ 19,313.88
Paid on Loan Over Billed Amount	\$ 56,762.73