

September is the month when we “Begin Again”. For most of us, the summer is over and the busy activities start. School activities, sports, and of course the same is true here at Our Savior’s. With God’s help, all things are made new - again.

Here is a reflection on how God makes all things new.

The time was approximately 7:45 a.m. I was returning home from an executive workout at the Y (whirlpool and sauna). My wife, Cathy, called me and said, “You have to call Hays. A plane just crashed into his building, and the building is on fire.” Hays, our son is a lawyer and at the time was working for a law firm that occupied the 54<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> floors of the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. With my heart in my hands, I pulled into the Piggly Wiggly parking lot and called his apartment hoping he was not yet at his office. (Often, he worked all night.) The phone rang ten times and finally he answered. “Thank goodness you’re OK,” I said. “Why wouldn’t I be OK?” he responded. I shared the news of the attack, and you know the rest of the story.

In the many years that followed, we visited the Big Apple at least twice a year and usually stayed at the Millennium Hilton right across from the demolished World Trade Center site. On each visit, we watched the progress of a new structure - a taller structure than before - called the Freedom Tower. A few years ago, we went up to the Observation Deck of this new Freedom Tower and witnessed first hand how God, with our help, makes all things new.

This is a good example of amazing renewal as we begin September. It’s a time to begin again with God’s help. It’s a time to recommit to this newness with God’s help.

So here is my prayer for all of us.

- ~ Begin again with a recommitment to worship. Come weekly and have your batteries recharged and feel the presence of Jesus as we commune together.
- ~ If you have Sunday School-aged children, begin again with a commitment that they will attend regularly. And then begin again and bring them to worship.
- ~ Begin again with a recommitment to volunteer. With God’s help, you will fill many hours sharing your time at this church you love and volunteering in our community.
- ~ Begin again by studying his word at our Bible studies or in your home. The more we know about Jesus, the better Christians we will be.

I know that with God’s help all of us can Begin Again! This is a good time to start the process.

God Bless you and your loved ones,

**Interim Pastor Dennis E. Ellisen**

## Confirmation News

Grades 6-8 Confirmation  
Schedule:

### September 12

**5:30:** Parent and student orientation meeting.

**6:30:** Confirmation teacher & helper meeting

### September 19

**5:30:** First day of confirmation class. Class will end at 6:30.

**6:30-6:45:** Acolyte Training for grade 6 and those who are new to Confirmation.

### Grade 9 Confirmation Info

-Summer packets were to be completed by September 1.

-Faith statements must be emailed to Marcie K. at [mkim-mes@our-saviors.org](mailto:mkim-mes@our-saviors.org).

-Interviews with Pastor Dennis will take place by appointment on September 16, 23, 30 and October 7 from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. (Packet must be completed before interview)

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

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

## Sunday School News

We recently had a fantastic meeting for parents and teachers. Good food, good fellowship, and we're energized for Sunday school start up on September 16, 2018, at 9:15 a.m. However, more teachers are needed. The school year is broken into five week increments - when you sign up to teach, you are only signing up for five weeks. Ruthie is hoping this will enable more people to be able to commit to shorter periods of time. Adjustments can be made to any part of the schedule. The more people that volunteer, the less commitment needed. If you are still interested in helping out this year, please give Ruthie a call at church.

Sunday school registration forms are in the Gathering Area, along with parent covenant forms. Please note that you need to look at the back of the covenant to be able to complete it properly. Thank you all for your dedication to OSLC children.

## Open Enrollment

Registration is now open for our Sunday school and Confirmation programs. If you have, or know of a friend or family member who has a child in preschool – grade 8, we'd like to invite them to join our amazing program. You do NOT have to be an OSLC member.

## 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.

Please sign up for a worship service 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](mailto: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**

### **“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.” Day**

**Are YOU ready to lend a hand?** Stop in the Gathering Area at church to view the “SERVE” board - simply sign up for the project that you want to be a part of. NEW this year – worship on Saturday 5:00 and Sunday 8:00 are complete services. If you are not able to participate at a SERVE site, you can still worship with us! ;-) There is NO 10:30 worship service.

### **T-Shirts**

Do you already have a God’s Work. Our Hands. Day t-shirt? If so, please wear it on September 9. This year, we’ll have a limited number of new shirts to hand out. If you have GWOH shirts that you no longer need, please drop them off at the church by Sept. 1 and we’ll make sure to share them with other members.

### **UPDATED Schedule**

7:45 AM: Arrival & check-in  
8:00 AM: Worship Service (a complete service)  
8:45 AM: Send off to SERVE sites  
9:00-11:00AM: SERVE OTHERS  
11:15AM: Meet back in Sanctuary to share stories  
11:30AM: Tailgate-to-go

### **Guatemala 2019**

Our Savior’s is sending a group to Guatemala March 23-31, 2019. We plan on building two homes for deserving families. This trip is open to adults; children age 14 & up may come if accompanied by their parent/guardian. Spots are filling up so contact Rich & Pam Garman at [pamgarman2@gmail.com](mailto:pamgarman2@gmail.com), 920-915-2272 or Marcie Kimmes at [mkimmes@our-saviors.org](mailto:mkimmes@our-saviors.org), 920-725-3956 for more info and/or to reserve your spot.

*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!*

## **Ready to Join OSLC?**

If you are interested in joining Our Savior’s, please contact Pastor Ellisen or Cheryl Timm at 725-3956. New members will be received at the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, September 16.

## **Worship Time Change**

Beginning the weekend of September 15-16, the worship times will change back to the fall schedule. Worship will be held on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

## **Deadline for Voice Articles**

The deadline for all articles for the Voice is generally on or about the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. If you have anything newsworthy you’d like printed, please email Jennifer Hurley, Communications Assistant, at [jhurley@our-saviors.org](mailto:jhurley@our-saviors.org) with your item. Thank you.

## 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 September 8 and 22. 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:

September 6, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

September 20, 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 September 25. Come join us!

## Altar Guild

There will be an Altar Guild meeting at church on Tuesday, September 18 beginning at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in helping with this group, please plan on joining us.

## Volunteering with Fresh Eyes

Vision without action is just dreaming. Action without vision just passes time. But, if we can combine the right vision with the right actions, we can change the world and make volunteering at OSLC amazing!

Volunteering is a way to give back to yourself and to make the world around you shine. Council is committed to revamping the way we volunteer at OSLC. We want to leave committees behind and create short term opportunities for people to support our ministries. With this in mind, we need input from the congregation for fresh views on how to update and rework how we volunteer at church.

On September 18, there will be a meeting at church to brainstorm about volunteering. We will meet at 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Pizza will be served. All thoughts and ideas are welcome. Please join us for an exciting meeting to support our church, community and the world!!!!!!

## A Message from the Music Team Wanted! Musicians and Vocalists!!

If you love to sing, want to share your talent with the congregation, enjoy fellowship with a fun group, or just want an opportunity to praise God, we've got the spot for YOU! Chancel Choir is for youth in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and up and adults. Reading music is helpful. We rehearse every Wednesday night from 7-8 p.m. and sing at Worship two or three times a month. Twice a year we sing at all three services - Advent Lessons and Carols, and Palm Sunday weekend. If you want to join our choir for just Lessons and Carols or Palm Sunday weekend, this is a short commitment that is encouraged.

Joyful Noise is for 7<sup>th</sup> grade and up and adults. We rehearse Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and sing at the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. We do not sing the first Sunday of the month. We also welcome instrumentalists to join us. Song selection includes Praise songs.

Something new this year....

We invite all of you talented "closet" singers or instrumentalists to sign up for a time you'd like sing or play once, once a month, or as often as you like, whatever works for you. Soloists, duets, etc., families, friends, youth of all ages are welcome to fill in where we need special music. We will work with you to pick music and arrange a practice time. We know you are out there.....just step right up and share your talent with us.

Look for a display and sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area. Questions? Contact Roberta Golden or Ardy Kreuter.

## A New Chapter

Our office manager, Cheryl Timm, has announced her retirement effective September 30. We give thanks for Cheryl's ten+ years of service and wish her the best. May God bless her as she begins this new chapter in her life. You'll still see Cheryl in worship as she continues to volunteer as a member.

## 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.

We are looking for someone to take on the position of Youth Coordinator. This is a 15 hour per 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 for either the Youth Coordinator or the Office Manager positions, please contact Pastor Dennis Ellisen.

## Lutheran World Relief Update

We've received a lot of donations for LWR over the summer, and it's exciting to see what our generous congregation has done! All of the kits will be assembled in early October, so there's still time to donate (and, of course, your donations are welcome any time during the year). The full LWR shopping list is available at church, but here's a list of items we are currently buying to complete some of the kits. THANK YOU for sharing God's love through your gifts!

- 8.5 x 11" spiral notebooks (typically they're 70-80 pages)
- Small pencil sharpeners ('dollar' and discount stores often sell sets of 8-12)
- Packages of ball point pens, blue or black ink
- Metal nail clippers, any size
- Large bars of soap (3 oz. to 4.5 oz., any brand)
- Large, sturdy combs
- New, adult-sized toothbrushes
- New baby socks (size recommendation: 6-12, 12-18 and 18-24 month)
- New, light-to medium weight bath towels (sizes between 20 x 40" and 27 x 52")
- New cloth diapers (10 per pkg, flat or prefold)

## We're On Facebook!

Check out the Our Savior's Facebook page! Just put our name in your 'search' box on Facebook: **Our Savior's Lutheran—Neenah, WI.**

Click on the LIKE button on our page to check us out. We post regular updates, pictures, events, and other fun stuff happening at Our Savior's.

You can also access our Facebook page through the homepage on our website at [www.our-saviors.org](http://www.our-saviors.org).

For where your heart is, there your heart will be also. ~ Matthew 6:21

## Generous People...

### **Communion Assistance Needed**

Communion servers are needed at the 8:00 a.m. worship services. We currently only have three people volunteering at this service time and need to find more to help fill in the gaps. Contact Tom Berven to volunteer.

## Generosity is...

...intentional. Often our generosity is a spur of the moment kind of thing. We see a need; it touches our heart and we act. We give money; we volunteer; we inspire others. Generosity can also be planned. September is a good time to consider how we want to be more generous this school year. How do we want to invest our time and resources to make a difference in the world. Do we feel a tug that could be God challenging us?

## Generous Congregation...

### Unified Budget YTD Through July

	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Income</b>	\$254,333.33	\$232,866.25
<b>Expenses</b>	<u>\$254,250.34</u>	<u>\$254,077.72</u>
	\$ 82.99	(\$ 21,211.47)

## Special Offerings ...

### **Noisy Coin**

World Hunger  
\$217.17

Hams  
\$273.92

## **Memorials Received**

**A special thank you to  
those who remembered**

**Stephen Ellisen**

## Building Fund...

### Through July

<b>Remaining on Loan</b>	\$380,183.53
<b>Principal Paid on Loan</b>	\$111,398.85
<b>Total Contributions</b>	\$149,041.29
<b>Billed on Loan</b>	\$ 22,532.86
<b>Paid on Loan Over Billed Amount</b>	\$ 88,865.99