

VOICE

*Our
Savior's
Lutheran
Church*

809 South Commercial Street
Neenah, WI 54956

Service Times

Sat. 5:00 p.m.— Sun. 9:00 a.m.

Office Hours: M-Th 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Fri. 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Phone Number: 920-725-3956

June 2019

Our Journey Together



June ushers in a new season in the life of your church. On Saturday, June 8th, and Sunday June 9th, we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. In the seasons of the church year it is described as the birthday of the church. (You won't find a Hallmark card that says "Happy Pentecost," but it is a big deal.)

Peter, along with thousands of believers, felt a rushing wind from God and received the Holy Spirit. They received the strength that they had never felt before. All of a sudden, they had the courage to proclaim the good news that Jesus had taught them. A church was born.

As God's church, we believe that the Holy Spirit still permeates the life of all the faithful, and it is yearning to be made real in everything we do, however simple and ordinary.

What is the Holy Spirit doing for us? First of all, like the disciples, we discover that being filled with the Holy Spirit means that we are being challenged in new and marvelous ways. That is evident at Our Savior's with the great emphasis on technology with a new digital sign, a new Our Savior's Church app, and a new online giving platform Tithe.ly. "Behold I make all things new." (Revelations 21:5)

Second, we discover that in the darkest hours of faith, the Holy Spirit comforts us! We have all had struggles this past year, surgery, illness, divorce, depression, unemployment and death. But we know that the Holy Spirit helps us make it through the night.

Lastly, the Holy Spirit helps us to understand that we need to be nurtured in strength by a community of believers. We need to be in worship together! There is no such thing as a "Robinson Crusoe Christian." It's the Holy Spirit that helps recharge our batteries as we gather in worship each Sunday.

Yes. It's the birthday of the church. Happy Pentecost.

God's Peace to you and your loved ones,

Interim Pastor Dennis E. Ellisen

Confirmation News

Just like that, our Confirmation year has ended! We closed out the year with a fun few weeks - we attended the Unity Service in Appleton with hundreds of Youth from all over the state, and had an end-of-the-year celebration to commemorate our time together.

Thank you again to all the parents, students, teachers, and helpers who helped make this year possible.

See you in the Fall!

Vacation Bible School News

Are your kids ready to GROW IN FAITH, HAVE FUN, and CHANGE THE WORLD? Get ready for:

ReNew: The Green VBS™!

Place: **OSLC**

Dates: **July 22-26**

Time: **8:30-11:30 a.m.**



All kids between ages three and 10 are invited to grow in faith as they play, learn, sing, and work to ReNew our congregation and community.

Stop by the Vacation Bible School display to grab a slip with our registration link, or e-mail Colleen Welsh at cwelsch@our-saviors.org. See you at *ReNew: The Green VBS™!*

Congrats, Grads!

On May 19th, we celebrated the students from Our Savior's who will be graduating this month. Our annual Baccalaureate Service was a wonderful celebration of all the hard work that they have put into their education.

Congratulations to all graduates, and may God bless you as your next chapter unfolds!



Our confirmation kids at their final youth event of the school year.



The OSLC seniors who are graduating this spring. Our congrats to all of them!

“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

SUMMER MISSION TRIP - Our mission group of 22 people is ready to go to Pearland, TX on June 16-22. Our team will be leading a week of Camp Noah for children/families who’ve been devastated by recent flooding. Please keep our group in your prayers. They’ll have plenty to share when they return.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED at Neenah Animal Shelter – On Saturday, May 5, OSLC members helped the shelter with their spring clean-up. A lot of work was done in a short amount of time. The shelter staff wants our congregation to know how much they appreciate our help and ongoing partnership.



A few of our members who helped out at the Neenah Animal Shelter the beginning of May. Thank you for your help!



LWR Kit Needs

If you’d like to contribute some items for the Lutheran World Relief kits, here’s our “most wanted” list:

- Lightweight baby t-shirts (long or short sleeves) - size 6 to 24 months
- Sleepers without “feet” or baby gowns - size 6- 24 months
- Cardigan sweaters or jackets (zippered or buttoned with hoods, if possible), size 6 to 24 months
- New cloth diapers (flat-fold or prefold)
- Bars of soap, 4-5 ounces (new, in packaging)
- New lightweight bath towels, sizes 20x40” to 27x52”
- New hand towels, dark colors preferred
- New, adult-sized toothbrushes (multiple packs and single items are all acceptable)
- 70-80 page lined, school notebooks

If you’d like the full shopping list, you’ll find them in the bottom row of the wall rack near the sanctuary (close to the gathering area bathrooms). All items can be dropped off in the pantry closet across from the church office. We’ll send our gifts to Lutheran World Relief this fall. Each donation will make a huge difference in someone’s life! 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 June 8 and 22. All men welcome.

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 June 25. Come join us!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am. Prayer shawls are shared for many reasons – weddings, baptisms and hospitalizations, to name a few. We need you so we can continue to spread the strength of prayer through this ministry.

Esther Circle

The Esther Circle meets the second Tuesday of every month at 9:30 a.m. at Church. This month our meeting will be on June 11. See you there!

Message From Ministry Associate, Marcie Kimmes

It is with both joy and sadness that I share the news that I am starting down a new career path. I have accepted a position with Thrivent Financial and am in the process of obtaining my licensing to be a financial advisor. For over fourteen years I've had the privilege of serving this congregation; it's been such a blessing getting to know so many amazing people – you are family.

Although I will no longer be on staff, I will continue to worship alongside you and volunteer in some areas. So this isn't goodbye, but rather 'see you in church' and 'what can we do together to reach out and serve our community'. Please keep me in your prayers as I will continue to pray for you.

*Best Always,
Marcie ;-)*

Mobile App

BIG news... our mobile app is now available! To download, go to your App Store, and search Our Savior's Lutheran – Neenah to find it. Here are some of the things you'll be able to do: Browse Pastor Dennis' sermons; give simply and securely; keep up on the latest for Children, Youth, Ministry Teams and Volunteer Opportunities; **read the weekly announcements & monthly VOICE**; stay in the know with the Newsfeed (a combination of FB, calendar and events); submit a prayer request on the Prayer Wall and/or commit to pray for others; view the monthly church calendar and *so much more!*

Cut & Piece Day

Mark your calendars for Thursday, June 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Our Savior's gym.

No sewing skills are necessary to join us for a FUN afternoon of preparing materials for quilting. We will sort and cut fabrics into pieces that will later be sewn into quilts.

So, if you have a passion for providing quilts to those who have nothing, come join us for all, or part, of the afternoon. Bring a friend too! Everyone is invited.

Desserts and coffee will be served.



Have you considered a Qualified Charitable Contribution?

By Karl Wunderlich

I recently sat down with a client of mine for their annual investment review. This client was making contributions like many of us do, by writing a check to his church each month. This client was also over age 70-½ and required by the IRS to take minimum distributions from his IRA. You must make these withdrawals even if you don't need the income. This additional taxable income may push you into a higher tax bracket, cause more of your Social Security benefits to be taxed and may also reduce your eligibility for certain tax credits and deductions. To eliminate or reduce the impact of RMD income, charitably inclined investors may want to consider making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD).

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from an IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity, as described in the QCD provision in the Internal Revenue Code. Amounts distributed as a QCD can be counted toward satisfying your RMD for the year, up to \$100,000, and can also be excluded from your taxable income. This is not the case with a regular withdrawal from an IRA, even if you use the money to make a charitable contribution later. In this scenario, the funds would be counted as taxable income even if you later offset that income with the charitable contribution deduction. Many people no longer can itemize deductions because of the higher standard deduction.

Why is this distinction important? If you take the RMD as income, instead of as a QCD, your RMD will count as taxable income. Having higher taxable income can directly impact your eligibility for certain deductions and credits. For example, your taxable income helps determine the amount of your Social Security benefits that are subject to taxes. Keeping your taxable income level lower may also help reduce your potential exposure to the Medicare surtax.

In my client's case, we advised them to have their IRA distribute this required distribution directly to church and not to him. He will still get credit for his giving just like he was writing the check. But the big difference is the client was able to save \$3,700 in income taxes by making this simple change. That's significant savings!

You should consult with your tax advisor to see if you could benefit by doing something similar.

From the HOPE Team

Do you feel you need to reach out to someone for help when you are feeling depressed or anxious, but you don't know where to turn? Do you want help but are not comfortable talking in person? Did you know you can text 741741 anytime you are feeling depressed or suicidal and a crisis worker will text you back and continue to text with you.

You don't need to know how to start. Simply text Hello to get started. The Crisis Counselor will help you sort through your feelings by asking questions, empathizing, and actively listening. The goal of the conversation is to get you to a calm, safe place. A conversation usually lasts 15-45 minutes.

Crisis Text Line will text about whatever is a crisis to you - addiction, anxiety, assault, bullying, depression, eating disorders, self-harm, and suicide. It is a free service available 24/7 to anyone, anywhere in the US. Reach out for help. End the stigma of Mental Health!

Whoever is generous to the poor, lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed. ~ Proverbs 19:17

Thank You...

During the month of May, our children collected “noisy” and “silent” money for Lutheran World Relief on three separate weekends. The results were outstanding! Thank you for your generosity. We will purchase items for three different kinds of LWR kits, and the quilters will also purchase some much-needed supplies. Together, we are changing lives!

Generous Congregation...

YTD Totals Through April

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Income	\$140,767	\$148,180	(\$7,413)
Expenses	\$146,666	\$150,546	(\$3,880)



Memorials Received...

A special thank you to those who remembered

*Richard McCrory
Nancy Laflin*

May Pastoral Acts...

Baptisms – none

Weddings - none

Funerals –
Pearl Hogan

New Members — none

Building Fund...

Through April

Remaining on Loan	\$ 280,119.48
Principal Paid on Loan	\$ 72,642.22
Total Contributions	\$ 35,425.68
Billed on Loan	\$ 12,875.92
Paid on Loan Over Billed Amount	\$ 59,766.30

UNAPPROVED
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

Present: Kristi Armstrong, Graham Bradley, Chris Crum, Pastor Dennis Ellisen, Ben Lochner, Sue Schultz, Joan Terry, Carla Weiss

Excused Absence: Andrew Schaller and Kevin Schabo

Pastor's Report: Reviewed April report. Talked about Gods Work Our Hands, Rally Sunday, Employee Handbook, and Call Committee.

Treasurer's Report: Reported that finance is strong so far. \$900 over in capital budget for building and grounds. 30/30 campaign kicked off. Expense reporting in bulletin has been changed. Report stands as written (attached).

2019 Membership/Attendance Reports: June 1-2 there will be 5-6 new families joining. Reports stand as written.

Ministry Team Reports:

Building and Grounds-Kevin Schabo: Roof will be done second week of June. Plan to set up volunteer day in June to paint and landscape.

Evangelism, Marketing, Communication & Technology: Schaller: App is ready. Inputting information into new Church Management Program. On-line donation program up and running. Training needs to be set up yet.

Finance – Sue Schultz: Met April 30. Sent out appeal letter.

Learn and Grow – Chris Crum: Met April 23. Working on how to get kids to Sunday School.

Security and Safety – Ben Lochner: Met May 16. Emergency Action Plan. Security locks engaged.

Worship and Music – Graham Bradley: Looking for Alter Guild help. Communion person that walks around – don't set communion on organ or piano. Keyboard sent in for repair. Organ will need to be repaired – use memorial funds. Services reflection.

Worship Volunteers- Kristi Armstrong: Volunteer appreciation in June.

Youth – Chris Crum: Surveyed confirmation kids – review results. Set up vacation bible school.

Old Business:

Proposed Undesignated Bequest Distribution Change: Currently split 3 ways: unified, foundation, and memorial. Voted and approved to change to 45% capital expenditures, 45% unified budget, and 10% local charities.

June Calendar

June 2019							July 2019						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
6	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
30													

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 26 SCRIP Cards Sold 9:00am Worship (809 S Commercial St, Neenah, WI 54956, USA) 1:00pm AA Hispanic	27 6:00pm AA Hispanic	28 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry	29 10:00am Bible Study	30 1:00pm Quilting 7:00pm AA Meeting	31	Jun 1 SCRIP Cards Sold 5:00pm Worship (809 S Commercial St, Neenah, WI 54956, USA)
2 SCRIP Cards Sold 9:00am Worship (809 S Commercial St, Neenah, WI 54956, USA) 1:00pm AA Hispanic	3 6:00pm AA Hispanic	4 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry	5 10:00am Bible Study	6 1:00pm Quilting 7:00pm AA Meeting	7	8 Pentecost 8:00am Men's Breakfast 5:00pm Worship (809 S Commercial St, Neenah, WI 54956, USA)
9 Pentecost 9:00am Worship (809 S Commercial St, Neenah, WI 54956, USA) 9:00am Mission Trip Send Off 1:00pm AA Hispanic	10 6:00pm AA Hispanic	11 10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting	12 10:00am Bible Study	13 7:00pm AA Meeting	14	15 5:00pm Worship (809 S Commercial St, Neenah, WI 54956, USA)
16 FATHER'S DAY 9:00am Worship (809 S Commercial St, Neenah, WI 54956, USA) 1:00pm AA Hispanic	17 6:00pm AA Hispanic	18 11:00am Island Shores Service (Island Shores, 131 E North Water St, Neenah, WI 54956, USA)	19 10:00am Bible Study	20 9:00am Quilters Cut & Piece Day (Gym/Fellowship Hall) 7:00pm AA Meeting	21	22 8:00am Men's Breakfast 5:00pm Worship (809 S Commercial St, Neenah, WI 54956, USA)
23 9:00am Worship (809 S Commercial St, Neenah, WI 54956, USA) 1:00pm AA Hispanic	24 6:00pm AA Hispanic	25 10:30am Rebekah Circle 6:30pm Women's Book Club (Library)	26 10:00am Bible Study	27 7:00pm AA Meeting	28	29 5:00pm Worship - Healing Service (809 S Commercial St, Neenah, WI 54956, USA)
30 9:00am Worship - Healing Service (809 S Commercial St, Neenah, WI 54956, USA) 1:00pm AA Hispanic	Jul 1	2	3	4	5	6