

VOICE

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

September 2019

809 South Commercial Street

Neenah, WI 54956

Service Times

Sat. 5:00 p.m.— Sun. 8:00 & 10:30 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

Welcome Pastor Strasman!

Pastor Jon Strasman was presented at the congregational meeting on August 11 where he was voted in unanimously as the new pastor of Our Savior's. He will begin with us in October. His first weekend will be October 5-6. He comes to us from Coos Bay, Oregon, where he has been the presiding pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church since 2007.

Pastor Strasman grew up in Merrill, Wisconsin, and graduated from UW-Eau Claire with a Business Administration degree. He spent the first part of his career as a Human Resources Consultant with Wausau Insurance before taking on directing youth and family ministry at his home congregation. He went on to attend Wartburg Theological Seminary and took his first call in Fordville, North Dakota prior to his current ministry in Coos Bay. Pastor Jon is married to Jeranna and they have four children - Annika, Elias, Ezra and Marcella.

While at Gloria Dei, Pastor Jon has taken on turning a pastor-centered church to a lay-centered church as well as growing his congregation and creating and upholding a welcoming and inclusive church community. He has skills and gifts in recognizing and lifting up people's gifts within the church, connecting with youth and small group ministry, visitation of church members and conflict resolution. He has also supervised a number of pastoral interns during his time in Oregon, an experience that he feels has helped develop and strengthen his own pastoral work.

Pastor Jon is an active person who enjoys time in the community, golfing, attending sporting events and cooking. He and his family are looking forward to joining the Our Savior's Lutheran family and the Neenah community.



On the left are Pastor Strasman with his wife, Jeranna. Above are Jeranna, Marcella, Pastor Jon, Ezra, Elias and Annika.

Sunday School

Sunday School is finally here! We will be having our first class on Sunday, September 15th from 9:15-10:15 a.m. It's not too late to join us for this fun, exciting adventure! Registration forms are available in the Gathering Area.

This Month's Lesson: *The Parable of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin.*

Confirmation News

Confirmation is back! Our first class is on Wednesday, September 18th from 5:30-6:30 p.m., with an Acolyte training session to follow from 6:45 -7:00. It's not too late to join us for this exciting new year! Registration forms are available in the Gathering Area.

Wanted! Teachers and More Teachers!

We are still looking for teachers and helpers for both Sunday School and Confirmation. Whatever time you can spare would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Colleen at cwelsh@our-saviors.org to volunteer.

Groups & Events...

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 24. Stop into the church office to pick up this month's book selection, and 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. If you like to knit or crochet, won't you consider joining us?

Esther and Rebekah Circles

Our Savior's has two active Circle groups that meet monthly for Bible study. The Esther Circle meets the second Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the lounge. This month they meet on September 10. Contact person is Doris Schmidt.

Rebekah Circle meets once a month, usually on a Tuesday, at 10:30 a.m. in the lounge. The date is determined at each study. Contact person is Chris Dieck-Hillegas.

Both groups do the Bible study out of the 'Gathering' magazine. Participants can get a subscription or there are a few on the kiosk near the office.

Men's Breakfasts

Our Men's Bible study meets on the second and fourth Saturday of every month at 8:00 a.m. in the meeting room of Perkins Restaurant in Neenah. We begin with breakfast, have a prayer and then watch/discuss a DVD put out by Men's Network or Christian Books. We routinely have between five and 10 men attend each week. This month we meet on September 14 and 28. All men are welcome! Contact is Ken Schmidt.

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

LWR “Most Wanted” List for September

Annual God’s Work. Our Hands. Day

This year, “God’s Work. Our Hands.” weekend is **Saturday and Sunday, September 7 and 8**. Our theme is “Fall into Volunteering!” and we’ve got some new and exciting changes. Stop in at church to view the SERVE board and sign up now! Our SERVE Sites will be on BOTH days as follows:

Saturday, September 7 from 9:00AM – 12:00PM (out in the community)

Bletzinger House – serve a meal and spend time with the residents – *food and fellowship is a win-win.*

Neenah Animal Shelter – Fall clean-up for some furry friends. *Who knows, maybe you’ll meet your next fur baby?*

Ave’s Wildlife Alliance – help get the bird enclosures ready for the fall/winter. *You’ll get to meet the birds up close – how cool is that!*

Please note: If you are volunteering at one of these off-site locations, please arrive at church at 8:30 for check-in and a blessing.

Saturday, September 7 from 3:30 – 4:45PM & Sunday September 8 from 9:00 – 10:15AM (at OSLC)

A Million Thanks – Make cards for deployed members of the military – *a great way to show your support.*

King Veteran’s Home – Make fun, autumn door decorations for veterans – *let our veterans know you care.*

Quilting – (Sunday ONLY from 9:00 -10:15) – *our quilts are given to people all over the world.*

WORSHIP SERVICES – **Saturday 5:00 PM; Sunday 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM.** *We’re back to our fall schedule with special services to worship together and share stories of the volunteer work we have done.*

SUNDAY BETWEEN SERVICES from 9:00 – 10:15AM

- There will be a celebration with food, music, games and prizes!
- You’ll learn more about the amazing things we do at OSLC from our various ministry teams.
- There’s an opportunity for you to get involved in the areas that are meaningful to you.

THANK YOU to all of you who have donated items this year! Your gifts give both help and hope to many people in need. September is our last round up for this year’s kits. Here’s what we’re highlighting this month:

- 8.5 x 11" spiral notebooks of lined paper (70-80 pages)
- Children's scissors (blunt tip)
- New ballpoint pens, blue or black ink
- New cloth diapers – flat fold or pre-folded are acceptable
- New hand towels, dark colors if possible
- New bath-sized towels – between 40" x 20" to 52" x 27" (dark colors)
- Large, sturdy combs

Please drop off items in the pantry across from the church office (look for the LWR bin). Thanks again!

Contact the church office with any questions at 725-3956.

Come and join in the fun!

Fall Worship Schedule

Beginning the weekend of September 7 and 8, we return to our Fall Worship schedule. Services will be held on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. and Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Church Work Day

There will be a Work Day, specifically focusing on church yard work—weeding, trimming, etc. It will be held on Tuesday, September 10, from 9:30 a.m. until noon. Contact Chris Swender with any questions.

Mission Quilters

Please Help Us Tie Quilts
Sunday, September 8
after the service in the Gym!

* No sewing experience necessary.

* **If you can tie a knot, you can tie a quilt!**

* **Fun & Fellowship guaranteed!**



God's work.
Our hands.

OSLC Women of the ELCA Fall Retreat September 20—21

This annual fall retreat is open to all women and will be held September 20-21 at Imago Dei Village Bible Camp near Clintonville. Come enjoy fellowship in a beautiful setting as we grow in faith and worship together. Kay Zastrow will speak on “Unity of the Spirit: We Are All in This Together!” based on Ephesians 4:3.

You may register for the whole retreat or just Friday evening or Saturday. Scholarships are available. Contact Carol Cleveland as cacleland50@gmail.com for more information.

Women of the ELCA Convention November 2

The biennial convention of the East Central Synod of WI Women of the ELCA will be held Saturday November 2nd at Good Shephard Lutheran in Howard. The theme is “Bold Women Turning the World Upside Down.” The main speaker will be Pastor Meta Herrick Carlson on the Canticle of the Turning. Human Trafficking Advocacy, Immigration, and the Opioid Crisis will be topics of breakout sessions.

Important decisions will be made at the business meeting including how to spend offerings collected since last convention as well as election of board members and voting members to the national Triennial Convention in Phoenix in 2020.

All women are welcome. Each congregation may designate one delegate to the November 2 synod convention. Contact Shirley Paulson for more information at spaulson1949@gmail.com

Fox Valley Lutheran Homes News

Join us for the Neil Diamond Nostalgia and Tribute Concert featuring Eric Diamond on Friday, September 20, at 7PM at the Outer Edge Stage at 300 N. Oneida Street in Appleton. General seating tickets are \$25 and Cabaret seating tickets are \$30. Reserve your own Cabaret Tale for four for \$120. Tickets are available in our office or at the door. Please check our website to purchase your tickets online.

Visit us on Sunday, October 13, from 10AM to 1PM at Linwood Commons, 425 N. Linwood Avenue in Appleton for our Pie and Ice Cream Social & Auction. All proceeds support the Ministry of Fox Valley Lutheran Homes.

Lynn Ann Clausing Rusch
Executive Director

So, You Think You Can Sing?

I know you can sing! You just need to have a little confidence and need a little nudging! Right? Well...nudge, nudge!

Please join our Chancel Choir for 9th grade on up! We are a friendly bunch of folks! We practice every Wednesday night from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Music Room. We sing in Worship on the second Saturday night of the month at 5:00 p.m., the fourth Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m., and the fifth Sunday morning of the month at 10:30 a.m. There are five months with five Sundays. The music is selected to fit the ability of the choir.

Our first practice is Wednesday, September 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room. Contact director Ardy Kreuter, at akreuter@new.rr.com or 920-470-4701 with questions.



Taken at the farewell reception for Ruthie Melzer last month. Her years of service at OSLC are very much appreciated.

Are You Tech-Savvy?

OSLC is looking to enhance our website and keep our app up-to-date with all of the happenings within the church. If you are someone who enjoys working with technology, and are looking for volunteer opportunities, look no further! Contact the church office for more information.

Make a Joyful Noise

Do you like to praise the Lord with a variety of Praise songs? Then join our Praise Choir, Joyful Noise. Open for 7th grade on up. We need voices and instruments!! Joyful Noise practices every Sunday at 9:15 a.m. and leads Worship at every 10:30 a.m. service except the first Sunday of the month.

The first practice is Sunday, September 15, at 9:15 a.m. in the choir area in the Sanctuary. Contact director Berdie Golden at roberta_golden@hotmail.com or 920-268-5848 with questions.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes August 13, 2019—7:00 p.m.

Present:

Chris Crum	Sue Schultz
Pastor Dennis Ellisen	Joan Terry
Graham Bradley	Carla Weiss
Ben Lochner	

Excused Absence: Kristi Armstrong, Kevin Schabo, Andrew Schaller

Pastor's Report: Reviewed June and July's report. Colleen Welsh full time – will handle confirmation, Sunday school, and youth. New Pastor will arrive Oct 1. Pastor Dennis last sermon will be Sept 29. ELCA is now a Sanctuary Denomination. Each church can choose what it means/how to operate. Still will fight to help strangers and displaced people. Handout was passed out regarding what does "Becoming a sanctuary denomination mean for the ELCA".

Treasurer's Report: Reduced deficit will show in this Sunday's bulletin. Not overspending. Update on the 30/30 campaign money.

Ministry Team Reports:

Building and Grounds-Kevin Schabo: Gym roof is done. No other update.

Finance – Sue Schultz: Met Aug 6. Talked about Stewardship program. Richard McCrory actually left the church \$76,000. 10% will be used for God's Work Our Hands in giving each organization a gift of money.

Personnel – Sue Schultz: Met in July.

Security and Safety – Ben Lochner: There has been a homeless person sleeping under the church's carport.

Worship and Music – Graham Bradley: Met last 2 months. Talked about Rally Weekend/God's Work Our Hands, decorating of the church, moving to Setting #8, and volunteer slips in bulletin (time/talent sheet) to be filled out during homily. Bishop will also be coming for installation of new Pastor – TBD.

Youth – Chris Crum: Looking to combine Youth with Learn & Grow committees.

New Business:

Health Insurance Change for Part-Time Employees: No more health insurance for part-time employees. Carla Weiss is checking into this and will advise back at next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Terry
Council Secretary

- Our Mission Statement -
Gather and grow with God's spirit in order to love and serve others.

Generosity is...

...an act of thanksgiving. When we count our blessings, we cannot help but be overwhelmed by the good fortune and wealth in our lives. We have far more than we don't have. This fall, as we head into the new school year, is a good time to remember to count our blessings and give thanksgiving for God's generosity.

Generous Congregation...

YTD Totals Through July

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Income	\$246,342	\$221,881	(\$24,461)
Expenses	\$256,665	\$253,910	(\$2,755)

Check out our online donation feature through Tithe.ly on our website at www.our-saviors.org. Simply click the **GIVE NOW button to see the different ways you can give.**

August Pastoral Acts...

Baptisms –
Skyler Maxwell Gilbertson

Funerals – None

New Members — None

Weddings—None

Building Fund...

Through July

Remaining on Loan	\$ 262,731.25
Principal Paid on Loan	\$ 92,030.45
Total Contributions	\$ 58,538.19
Billed on Loan	\$ 22,532.86
Paid on Loan Over Billed Amount	\$ 69,497.59

September Calendar

September 2019		October 2019						
		Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		29	30					
September 2019		Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		29	30					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 1 1 SCRP Cards Sold 9:00am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic	2 6:00pm AA Hispanic	3	4 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Confirmation Meeting - Grades 6-8 Parents and Students 6:30pm Confirmation Teacher Meeting	5 1:00pm Quilting 7:00pm AA Meeting	6 7:30pm FV Squares	7 1 God's Work, Our Hands 5:30pm Worship
8 1 God's Work, Our Hands 8:00am Worship 9:00am Trillgate 10:30am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic	9 6:00pm AA Hispanic 6:30pm 9th Grade Confirmation Appointments w/Pastor	10 9:30am Prayer Share Ministry (Library) 10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting	11 10:00am Bible Study	12 7:00pm AA Meeting	13 6:30pm FV Squares	14 8:00am Men's Breakfast 5:00pm Worship
15 1 Presentation of Bibles- 2nd 1 Teacher Installation 8:00am Worship 9:00am Confirmation Agpis 9:15am Sunday School Begins 10:30am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic	16 6:00pm AA Hispanic 6:30pm 9th Grade Confirmation Appointments w/Pastor	17 10:30am Rebekah Circle (Library) 11:00am Island Shores Service (Island Shores, 131 E North Water St, Neenah, WI 54956, USA)	18 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Confirmation Classes Begin 6:45pm Acolyte Training	19 9:00am Quilting 7:00pm AA Meeting	20 6:30pm FV Squares	21 5:00pm Worship
22 8:00am Worship 9:00am 9th Grade Confirmation Appointments w/ Pastor 10:30am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic	23 6:00pm AA Hispanic	24 6:30pm Women's Book Club (Library)	25 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Confirmation	26 7:00pm AA Meeting	27 6:30pm FV Squares	28 8:00am Men's Breakfast 5:00pm Worship
29 1 Pastor Dennis' Farewell 8:00am Worship 10:30am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic	30 6:00pm AA Hispanic	Oct 1	2	3	4	5