VOICE

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

October 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

Thank You and Godspeed Pastor Dennis!

Dear Pastor Dennis,

On behalf of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, thank you for serving as our Interim Pastor for the past nearly two years. And, thank you, Cathy, for sharing your husband with us. Never did I imagine that an interim pastor would have such an impact on us, let alone become so totally part of who we are.

Your pastoral care and concern for us has been "all in" from the beginning and has reached so many. It is evidenced by the many whom you have visited, consoled and counseled and by those blessed to attend the worship services you started at Island Shores.

We enjoyed our worship services with your unique brand of humor, wit and stories. We never quite knew where you would take us, but we always left services with a light heart and lessons learned. Your sermons brought the joy of God's love back into the hearts and minds of many of our members. And we happily welcomed 60 new members during your tenure! The majority of churches lose members while with an interim pastor.

Your guidance and wise counsel have been invaluable. Under your direction, ministry teams were revamped and energized and are working hard. There is great morale amongst Church staff, and Church Council has accomplished much. A new method for budget preparation is more efficient and financial reporting is completely transparent. The 2018 Faith in Action Campaign and the 2019 30-in-30 Fund Appeal were huge successes due in great part to your "all in" approach. An excellent Ministry Site Profile was prepared resulting in a fine tool for the Call Committee to use in their successful search for our next pastor.

We are grateful, blessed and honored to have had you as our Interim Pastor and we are proud to add your name to the history of our church. Your dedication and selfless commitment to Our Savior's is exemplary, exceptional and "all in". Your contagious optimism and direct approach have done much to open communication lines, awaken new ideas, sharpen focus and motivate involvement. We thank you, Pastor Dennis. We will miss you and wish you a long healthy and happy retirement. May God richly bless you and Cathy.

Peace,

Sue Schultz
Council President

Sunday School

Sunday School is up and running! We have had a wonderful few first weeks of faith, fun, and fellowship with the children of Our Savior's. The teachers and kids have enjoyed cooking, playing, making art projects, and going on a Treasure Hunt to learn about The parable of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin.

We are excited to have over 40 students enrolled this year, but as with any large group, it takes lots of coordination. We are still in great need of teachers. If you are willing to help this program continue to run by signing up to teach on an occasional basis, please contact Colleen Welsh at cwelsh@our-saviors.org.

This Month's Lesson: *Ten Men Healed*

Confirmation News

Grades 6-8

We are excited to have begun another year of Confirmation! Mark your calendars for our first few Youth events for the year beginning this month!

Wednesday, October 9: Join us before class to help put together kits for Lutheran World Relief. It will be a wonderful afternoon of service and comradery. Students are invited to come over to church after school. Kit assembly will begin at 4:00. Dinner will be provided.

Wednesday, October 30: It's almost Halloween! Join us any time after school to decorate pumpkins before class! Please bring your own pumpkin if you are able. Decorating will begin at 4:00. Dinner will be provided.

Grade 9

Confirmation Day is this month! We hope that you are looking forward to this special day that you have all worked so hard for. There will be a parent meeting on **Wednesday, October 9th** at 6:30 p.m. We ask that both parents and students be in attendance to address any questions about Confirmation Day.

Rehearsal will be held on **Sunday, October 20 at 9:15 a.m.** (Robes will be available for pick-up in Gym.) Confirmation Day is **Sunday, October 27 at 10:30 a.m.**

From The Pastor's Desk

So long, goodbye, or "farvol, takk for alt." For all non-holy-land folk at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, that last Norwegian phrase can be translated as "farewell, thanks for everything." Saying goodbye is probably the most difficult part of my work as your Interim Pastor. Knowing that this time would come even from the beginning of my ministry with you, doesn't make it any easier. Leaving you doesn't just mean having a last day celebration, waving to everyone and riding off into the sunset. Many emotions are tied up with saying farewell.

During my 21 months with you, we have built relationships and have walked together through many highs and lows in your lives. As we worshipped, my goal with my homilies has always been to "recharge your batteries" so that together we can "walk the walk." I hope in some small part that goal has been accomplished. My job description as your Interim Pastor was to make sure that Our Savior's continued as a "healthy congregation" until a new permanent Pastor arrives. Certainly, together, we have accomplished that goal as well.

With the great work of your Call Committee, Pastor Jon Strasman has arrived to be your new Pastor. You will be meeting him in worship this coming weekend. It's a new day, and a wonderful future with Our Savior's awaits all of you!

Obviously, I have much more to share with you. Please check our webpage where my final sermon is already posted. So, I leave you knowing that God is with you, "Emmanuel" as He is with me. Farvol, takk for alt.

With love and prayers for your amazing future,
Pastor Dennis E. Ellisen

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

God's Work. Our Hands. Day

We had a wonderful weekend of God's Work. Our Hands. activities. On Saturday, September 7, volunteers headed out to the Neenah Animal Shelter, Bletzinger House, and Ave's Wildlife Alliance for a morning of service. The service continued into Saturday evening and Sunday, with additional volunteer opportunities to write to members of the military through the A Million Thanks foundation, making door decorations for the Wisconsin Veterans' Home at King, and helping our Quilters make beautiful quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

There were three special worship services to discuss the importance of service, worship and sing together, and share stories of the volunteering done by those in our congregation. On Sunday morning, the celebration of service continued with a gathering consisting of food, music, games, and fellowship.

A sincere thank you to all who volunteered, attended, decorated, prepared, and assisted. It was a wonderful weekend, and it could not have happened without all of you.

Chancel Choir Singers Wanted

We are still looking for more folks to join the Chancel Choir!
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. Contact director Ardy Kreuter, at akreuter@new.rr.com or 920-470-4701 with questions.

Praise Band Needs 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. Contact director Berdie Golden at roberta_golden@hotmail.com or 920-268-5848 with questions.

Help Assemble LWR Kits

Wanted: adult volunteers and confirmation students at church on Wednesday, October 9, 4:00-5:30 p.m. We will make three different kinds of kits for Lutheran World Relief in the gym, and we need several adults to assist. No experience is needed, and if you can't be there for the full 90 minutes, come when you can. Please contact Ann Pokel (wapokel@gmail.com) or Colleen Welsh (cwelsh@our-saviors.org). Thanks!

Donut Holes Are Back!

Rick and Barb Klamm have graciously offered to pay for bringing donut holes back on Sunday mornings. As you'll recall, donut holes were removed from the Church budget this year as a cost-saving measure. Now all we need is someone to volunteer to pick up the donuts each week and deliver them to church by 9:00 each Sunday morning. Contact Kasey in the church office if you are willing to help with this—could possibly be on a rotating basis. And please thank Rick and Barb for bringing back this tasty tradition!

To Be Or Not To Be
-Chili Supper News-

That is the question. Will there be, or not be, a Chili Supper this year? Only if there are folks interested in doing the organizing and doing the work.

In the past, our Chili Supper was held on Election Day. This year, that falls on November 5. Many hands make light work so, if you're interested in keeping this tradition alive, please contact Kasey Konkle, Office Manager, for more information.

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 October 22. 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 though 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. 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.

The Esther Circle meets the second Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the lounge. This month they meet on October 8. Contact person is Doris Schmidt. The 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.

Retirees and Friends

Come join us for some fun! Anyone is welcome. We will be meeting the first Monday of each month. The first meeting will be Monday, October 7, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the church gym. Snacks will be provided. Come and learn how to play bunco and enjoy other card games. Hope to see you all there. Contact is Joan Terry.

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 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 October 12 and 26. All men are welcome. Contact is Ken Schmidt.

OSLC Security System Update

The security system at OSLC is officially set to go into full effect October 1st 2019. IMPORTANT REMINDER: This system has been put into place to keep us and our worship space safe. The safety and security team is doing everything they can to make this necessary change as easy as possible. Please never hesitate to ask questions! What you need to know:

- The church office hours are Monday- Thursday 8 am-4 pm, Fri 8 am-Noon. Access to the building is available during these hours by ringing the bell and waiting for assistance.
- For all church services, the elevator entrance door will automatically unlock 30 minutes before service, and it will automatically lock 15 mins after service begins.
- The office wing will be locked, meaning both of the doors to the office wing are locked, and the office wing will not be accessible, except by key or code on weekends.
- Wrench keys will be removed from all entrances, eliminating the option to force a door to remain unlocked. Doors are not ever to be propped open.
- The old key pad and code will be disabled.
- If you have a group that meets outside the times outlined, or if you require access to the office wing, please see Kasey Konkle, office manager. She will assist you with acquiring a building access code.
- All persons with access to the building will be required to sign a Building Access Agreement.

All of this will go into full effect OCTOBER 1st. Please take time over the next couple weeks to get your questions answered, and if you require access to our building, Kasey is happy to assist you with setting that up.

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.

Snowbirds

Are you getting ready to head south for the winter? Please be sure to contact the church office (725-3956) with your address and the dates of your departure and return so we can update our records.

Colleen Welsh Promotion

Please join me in congratulating Colleen Welsh on her promotion to the newly created full-time position of Faith Formation Director. Colleen joined the Our Savior's staff in September of 2018 as our part-time Youth Director. She is a 2017 graduate of St. Norbert College majoring in English and minoring in Religious Studies. Below is a brief summary of Colleen's job responsibilities in this new role.

Youth
Coordinate all youth events and activities ensuring each activity remains Christ-centered. Facilitate the expansion of all youth groups. Plan and coordinate any youth participation in worship services. Organize synod-led outings (JYG, SYG, Crossways Camp) and ELCA National Youth Gatherings

Confirmation
Coordinate the Confirmation program. Enlist teachers and helpers. Select and organize curriculum.

Sunday School
Coordinate the Sunday School program. Enlist teachers and helpers. Select and organize curriculum. Serve as a resource for the Learn and Grow Team.

Adult Forum
Coordinate educational events and speakers for adults. Serve as a resource for the Learn and Grown Team.

Please congratulate, pray for and support Colleen in her new role.

Sue Schultz
Council President

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

Pastor's Report: Congregational meeting to call new pastor. God's Work/Our Hands.

Treasurer's Report: Steady with unified projected budget. Memorial fund helped with budget. More to come from the Finance Team. Email Dave to shut-off Simply Giving.

2019 Membership/Attendance Reports: 1 baptism, 1 death.

Ministry Team Reports:

Building and Grounds -Kevin Schabo: Gym roof is done. Checking on heating. Work Day 9/10/19.

Retirees and Friends – Joan Terry: Set up monthly social. Will be held first Monday of each month. First one will be Monday, Oct 7 at 1:00-2:30pm.

Evangelism, Marketing, Communication & Technology - Andrew Schaller: New member brochure needs to be updated. Jennifer Hurley puts announcements on powerpoint for Sunday morning projection and also in the Voice. Look to see if can videotape sermons vs writing them to put on website.

Finance – Sue Schultz: A list will be generated to be tackled.

Learn and Grow/Youth – Chris Crum: Waiting to set next meeting – end of Sept.

Personnel – Sue Schultz: New health insurance.

Security and Safety – Ben Lochner: Oct 1 locks and group codes will be effective. Kasey knows system – Ben will be back-up. Building access policy. Need to investigate outside music instructors to understand their needs/usage of the church. Carport door is the only door left with a manual lock – need to update to electronic lock – cost is $1500. Motion to approve to use memorial fund: Crum/Armstrong. All voting aye. Presentation and powerpoint to educate the church on the security updates will be coming in the next few weeks.

Worship and Music – Graham Bradley: Decorated the church with trees with hands. Installation of new Pastor – TBD.

Worship Volunteers- Kristi Armstrong: Saturday/Sunday Gods Work Our Hands. Compiling information of additional volunteers that signed up.

Generous People...

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

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.

Generous Congregation...

YTD Totals Through August

	Budgeted	***Actual***	***Difference***
Income	$281,533	$305,547	$24,014
Expenses	$293,331	$279,707	$13,624

Memorials Received...

A special thank you to those who remembered

Bryn Carlson

August Pastoral Acts...

Baptisms –
Jaxon Michael Prahl, 9-15-19

Funerals –
Ken Gartner, 9-6-19

New Members — None

Weddings—None

Building Fund...

Through August

Remaining on Loan	$256,907.30
Principal Paid on Loan	$ 95,854.40
Total Contributions	$ 63,374.86
Billed on Loan	$ 25,751.84
Paid on Loan Over Billed Amount	$ 70,102.56

October Calendar

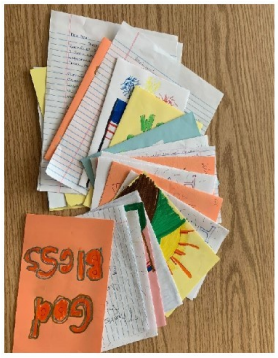
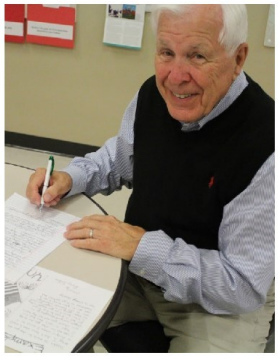
October 2019

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	31		

November 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 29	30	Oct 1 5:30pm Worship & Music Team Meeting	2 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	3 1:00pm Quilting 7:00pm AA Meeting	4 6:30pm FV Squares	5 SCRIP Cards Sold 5:00pm Worship
6 SCRIP Cards Sold 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic	7 1:00pm Retirees & Friends 6:00pm AA Hispanic	8 9:30am Esther Circle (Lounge) 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting	9 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal 6:30pm 9th Grade Confirmation Parent 7:00pm Chancel Choir	10 7:00pm AA Meeting	11 Peerenboom/Peterson Rehearsal 6:30pm FV Squares	12 Peerenboom/Peterson Wedding 8:00am Men's Breakfast 5:00pm Worship
13 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic	14 6:00pm AA Hispanic	15 11:00am Island Shores Service (Island Shores, 131 E North Water St, Neenah, WI 54956, USA)	16 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	17 9:00am Quilting 7:00pm AA Meeting	18 6:30pm FV Squares	19 5:00pm Worship
20 8:00am Worship 9:15am Confirmation Rehearsal 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic	21 6:00pm AA Hispanic	22 6:30pm Women's Book Club (Library)	23 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	24 7:00pm AA Meeting	25 6:30pm FV Squares	26 8:00am Men's Breakfast 5:00pm Worship
27 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Confirmation Day 10:30am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic	28 6:00pm AA Hispanic	29	30 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	31 7:00pm AA Meeting	Nov 1	2

Pictures From God's Work, Our Hand's Day